



Darwin Initiative Main: Final Report

To be completed with reference to the “Project Reporting Information Note”:

(<https://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/resources-for-projects/information-notes-learning-notes-briefing-papers-and-reviews/>).

It is expected that this report will be a **maximum of 20 pages** in length, excluding annexes.

Submission Deadline: no later than 3 months after agreed end date.

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Darwin Initiative Project Information

Project reference	27-003
Project title	Creating a sustainable landscape for the Tau-Buid and the Tamaraw
Country(ies)	Philippines
Lead Partner	Re:wild
Project partner(s)	D’Aboville Foundation and Demo Farm Inc.
Darwin Initiative grant value	£299,753.00
Start/end dates of project	1 January 2021 – 31 December 2023
Project Leader name	Mike Appleton
Project website/blog/social media	https://www.rewild.org/wild-about/mounts-iglit-baco-natural-park https://www.dabovillefoundation.org/community-tamaraw-driven-landscape-pr
Report author(s) and date	Mike Appleton (Project Leader) with information from Emmanuel Schutz (DAF Programme Director) and Ronet Santos (Project Manager) 29 March 2024.

Acronyms and Abbreviations used in the report

ADSDPP	Ancestral Domain Sustainable Development and Protection Plan
BMB	Biodiversity Management Bureau (of DENR)
CADC	Certificate of Ancestral Domain Claim
CADT	Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title
CCP	Community Conservation Plan
DAF	D’Aboville Foundation (main project partners of Re:wild)
DENR	Department of Environment and Natural Resources
ENIPAS	Extended National Integrated Protected Area System
FAMATODI	The officially recognised representative organization of the Taobuid
FPIC	Free, prior and informed consent
MIBNP	Mounts Iglit-Baco Natural Park
NCIP	National Commission on Indigenous Peoples
PaSu	Protected Area Superintendent
PAMO	Protected Area Management Office (of MIBNP)
PAMB	Protected Area Management Board (of MIBNP)
PPA	Philippine Permaculture Association
SMART	Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool
TCP	Tamaraw Conservation Program (of DENR)
ZSL	Zoological Society of London

Note on terminology

The project title and proposal use the spelling 'Tau-Buid' for the Indigenous occupants of MIBNP, the most widespread spelling of many in use at the time. Since then, it has been clarified with the tribe that the most appropriate spelling should be 'Taobuid'; consequently, we use the revised spelling throughout the report.

'Mangyan' is the umbrella term for the eight indigenous peoples of Mindoro: the Iraya, Alangan, Tadyawan, Taobuid, Buhid, Hanunuo, Ratagnon and Bangon. 'Punong Tribu,' refers to the tribal head of the Taobuid.

Note on images

Many Taobuid members do not like to be photographed or to have their images shared. Hence few very images of Taobuid are included in this report.

1 Project Summary

See Figure 1 and Figure 2 for main locations mentioned in the report.

The Critically Endangered Tamaraw (*Bubalus mindorensis*: Mindoro dwarf buffalo) is endemic to the Philippine island of Mindoro. Formerly abundant, hunting and habitat loss had by 2020 reduced Tamaraw to four isolated populations, with an estimated total at the time of approximately 600 individuals. The only known viable population (estimated at 450 animals) survived in 2,500ha of the territory of the Indigenous Taobuid tribe in Mounts Iglit-Baco Natural Park (MIBNP: total area 106,655 ha. See Figure 1), focused in and around a no-hunting area agreed with the Indigenous Taobuid people who inhabit the area. The Tamaraw was threatened by habitat loss and degradation, poaching and unsustainable traditional hunting, all of which were preventing population growth and extension of its range.

Around 400 Taobuid people (of a total of 15,000) live traditional lives alongside the Tamaraw and see their survival as intrinsically linked to that the species. Both have historically been pushed into the harsh, mountainous environment of MIBNP. The Taobuid people suffer from insecure tenure, land degradation, and marginalisation in decision-making. Their traditional land-use practices have become unsustainable, threatening their cultural identity and community coherence. As Tamaraw numbers decreased, traditional ritual hunting of very small numbers of the animals was becoming unsustainable.

The project was designed to build on six years' prior research, consultation and planning, that had led to participatorily developed plans for managing MIBNP and conserving the Tamaraw. These plans prescribed a holistic approach, linking improved protection, science based Tamaraw management, formal recognition of the ancestral domain of the Taobuid, and improved sustainability and resilience of their agriculture and resource use. This was intended to allow the Tamaraw population to expand under the stewardship of the Taobuid. The futures of the Taobuid and the Tamaraw (and other threatened species in the area) are dependent on building a new, co-managed, resilient and sustainable bio-cultural landscape. Taobuid leaders recognised this, but were wary of outsiders and frustrated by their inability to secure formal ancestral domain recognition, which undermined trust and cooperation with official bodies.

Based on this situation, the project had four main focal areas of work: i) building a better understanding of the Taobuid, their culture, livelihoods and interactions with their environment and the Tamaraw; ii) working with the Taobuid to improve the sustainability of their resource and land use and rehabilitate damaged landscapes in and around Tamaraw habitat; iii) securing the future of the Tamaraw through improved protection and expansion of existing traditional no hunting areas; and iv) securing official recognition of the ancestral domain rights of the Taobuid, thereby enabling them to be better empowered to control their future, to sustain themselves and their territory, and to maintain their cultural associations with the species.

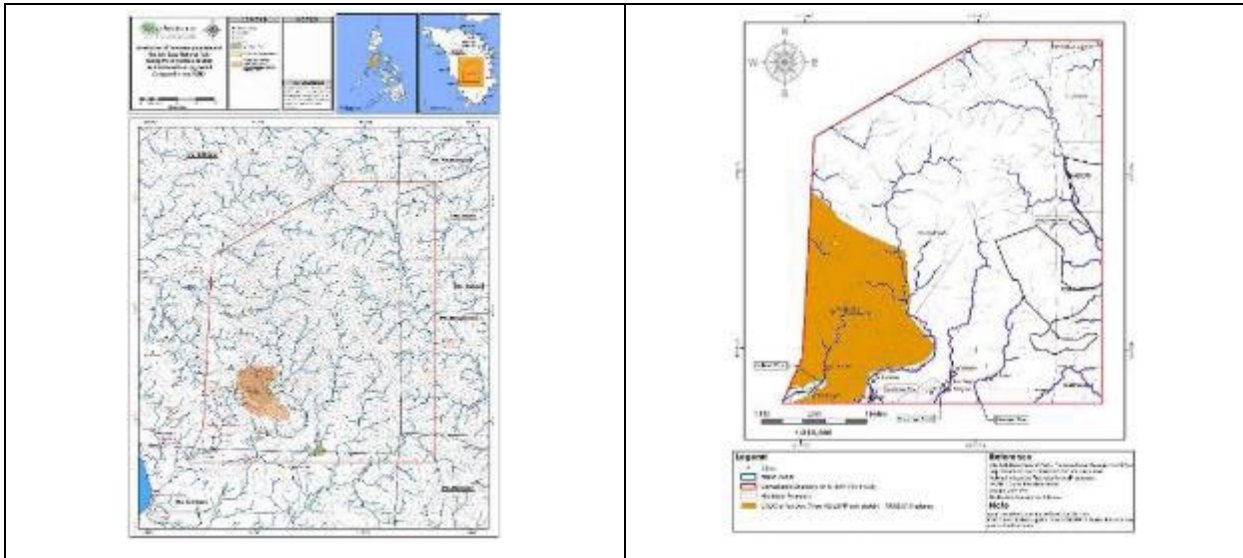


Figure 1 Left hand map: Location of MIBNP and the main area occupied by Tamaraw. Right hand map: approximate extent of the Taobuid Ancestral Domain claim within MIBNP



Figure 2 Base map of the area of work of the project, showing main locations mentioned in the report

2 Project Partnerships

The project was implemented through the following main partnerships with Re:wild:

The D'Aboville Foundation and Demo Farm Inc. (DAF) is a Philippines-based NGO that has worked in Mindoro since 2004 and that started to address Tamaraw conservation in 2013. DAF was the lead partner and was responsible for most of the implementation of the project in Mindoro. The partnership with Re:wild was established in 2016 around a mutual interest in conserving the Tamaraw. Through this partnership Re:wild understood the imperative of integrating conservation of the species with the needs and rights of the Taobuid people. The Re:wild project manager and the DAF team held weekly Zoom meetings throughout the project, which helped ensure that the partnership remained strong throughout the Covid-19 pandemic and between missions. A minimum of two Re:wild missions took place each year (apart from during the COVID-19 pandemic).

The **Protected Area Management Office (PAMO)** of Mounts Iglit-Baco Natural Park, under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), is the official body responsible for park management. The PAMO was engaged at all stages of project design and is ultimately responsible for sustaining most of the project's outcomes. A

regular turnover of Protected Area Superintendents (five since the project was conceived), provided challenges for project continuity. This was addressed by ensuring good working relations with the more permanent staff, and with the central offices of the DENR, who direct the work of the PaSu. In this respect, the official approval of the General Management Plan for MIBNP (drafted with facilitation from Re:wild and DAF before the project) has been vital. This requires the Park to implement the plan, and also requires the DENR to fund those activities. Since all project activities are (by design), included in the General Management Plan, this has helped ensure that the project's accomplishments will be sustained.

The **Protected Area Management Board (PAMB)** is the formal multistakeholder participatory management body for MIBNP that reviews and approves major plans and decisions. Project team members are regularly invited to attend and make presentations to PAMB meetings. In 2023 Ronet Santos, the DAF project manager was invited as a permanent member of the PAMB.

The **Tamaraw Conservation Program (TCP)** is the official programme of the DENR for Tamaraw conservation across the island of Mindoro and works closely with PAMO for the monitoring and management of the Tamaraw population inside MIBNP. The TCP is responsible for delivery of the Mindoro-wide Tamaraw Conservation Management and Action Plan (TCMAP), developed with assistance from Re:wild and DAF. The project worked very closely with TCP throughout, ensuring coordination of work inside MIBNP with the wider work of the TCP.

The other main partners were the **Taobuid people**. The main goals of the project reflected the wishes of their leaders expressed during development of the management plan for MIBNP, in particular their desire to have their Ancestral Domain formally recognised. Central to this project has been a reliable and increasingly trusting relationship with the Taobuid, who have had previous negative experiences with standalone short-term projects, and who are also disconcerted by the frequent changes of leadership in the PAMO.

We have had good relations throughout the project with the Punong Tribu (tribal leader) of the Taobuid. We consulted with him and followed his guidance, emphasising that the goals of the project reflected the wishes of the Taobuid. In turn his influence enabled us to build relations with Taobuid members who had initially been more reluctant to collaborate.

Vital to our work was the understanding we developed of the complex internal governance systems of the Taobuid, who are not a homogenous group. They can be simply categorised in three 'layers'.

- Layer 1. Reside on the lower slopes of MIBNP, living traditional lives, of agriculture and trading, but also in regular contact with mainstream Mindoro society. Some are employed by government, businesses and NGOs. The Punong Tribu comes from layer 1.
- Layer 2. 'Upland Taobuid' reside in small, shifting settlements in remote areas of the Park including across the range of the Tamaraw. They live very traditional lives, practicing shifting cultivation, hunting and occasionally labouring for Layer 1 farmers during the 'hungry season'. They generally avoid contact with outsiders and do not allow access to their settlements. Trained Taobuid project team members can visit their settlements and (with their permission) gather information. They respect the leadership of the Punong Tribu, but have their own clan-based systems of day-to-day governance.
- Layer 3. A small but unknown number of Taobuid living in almost complete voluntary self-isolation from outsiders (although in contact with layers 1 and 2). We did not attempt any direct contact with these people, respecting their right to self-isolation.

During the project there was increasing progress in building trust with those in Layer 2. Our 'listening' approach, avoidance of imposing decisions or solutions, respect for self-determination and isolation, steady supportive presence and active support for their ancestral domain claim made a real difference. At the end of the project, more people were attending meetings, observing the agricultural demonstration work, showing support and cooperation, sharing information and participating in the development of the Community Conservation Plan, approved by the tribe in late 2023.

We also worked closely with the leadership of the officially recognised people's association of the Taobuid (**FAMATODI**), who take the lead for the tribe in the ancestral domain claim.

Following the signing in 2022 of a tripartite agreement between the NCIP, DAF and the Taobuid, the project team developed an excellent relationship with the **National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP)**, the official body responsible for processing the claim for a Certificate of Ancestral Domain (CADT) by the Taobuid. The project provided logistical support (transportation, food, subsistence) for the survey work and negotiations for the CADT claim. Our community outreach officer (Juanita 'Nina' Saet) was consulted and updated regularly by the NCIP and invited to meetings and events.

We also worked with the national and regional offices of the **Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)** and within the DENR the **Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB)** on issues related to protected area planning and policy and on Tamaraw conservation. We established a line of direct reporting on project activities to them, ensuring that they were fully informed.

The project team visited the **British Embassy in Manila** on May 23, 2022, and made presentations to the Political Counsellor and other staff.

In the final 18 months of the project, we started working with three new partners.

The **Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation Inc.**, an influential local NGO that has excellent national connections and capacity. We worked with them particular on biodiversity survey work and also on building political support both in Mindoro and nationally for Tamaraw conservation efforts.

In 2022 we started working with the **Zoological Society of London (ZSL)** and the **IUCN SSC Asian Wild Cattle Specialist Group** with whom we (and DAF) partnered in the successful application for support from the Segre Foundation for funds to support continuation of our work under Output 3 and also for Mindoro-wide population management of the Tamaraw. Project activities started in April 2023.

3 Project Achievements

3.1 Outputs

Output 1. A sound understanding of the structure, culture and needs of Taobuid communities in and around the Tamaraw habitat and of the options and needs for sustainable land use and landscape rehabilitation.

Indicator	Means of verification	Notes
1.1 Needs and priorities for improved livelihoods and food security improvement among the ca 200 Tau-Buid people in 2 focal communities are better understood and documented.	1.1 Research report with recommendations on livelihoods, land and resource use completed by end of Q3 2021/22 and approved by the Tau-Buid	'Initial Documentation of Indigenous Political Structure, Land Use, Hunting and other Resource Use Practices of the Taobuid in MIBNP' was completed in 2021. (Annexe 1) The focal area comprised 3 communities (Tagurades, Bayanan and Bangkodo: total population ca 225 people).
1.2 Demographics, social structures, governance systems and traditional knowledge of one focal Tau-Buid community (ca 100 people) are better understood.	1.2 A series of socio economic and ethnographic studies is completed and approved by the Tau Buid	'State of knowledge on Taobuid Land Use and Natural Resource Use Practices' compiled. Latest version Dec 2023. (Annexe 2).
1.3 At least one Tau-Buid community (100 people) Tau-Buid has increased awareness of and capacity for implementing measures to improve agricultural productivity and reduce land degradation	1.3 At least 50 Tau-Buid women and men participated in capacity building events by the end of 2022/3	At least 50 documented attendees at organised events. Many more at informal events and consultations. Around 225 people in 3 communities had regular access to project demonstration sites.
1.4 A trials demonstration area for new agricultural and agroforestry techniques is available to at least 400 Tau-Buid people	1.4 Trial/demonstration area established in MIBNP end of 2022/23	8.5 ha area established and functioning. Available to visit for all Taobuid. Initiative recognised with a national award.
1.5 At least 2 MIBNP PAMO community outreach staff have improved capacity for working with Indigenous Peoples	1.5 Documented participation of PAMO staff in relevant exchanges and training events	The PAMO recruited a female Taobuid member to its team to work on community issues. The PaSu is a regular attendee at community meetings. Three community outreach staff (Nina Saet, Cleo Hechanova and Fransly Ignacio) have received extensive training and experience.

Table 1. Output 1 summary

Building a sound understanding (Indicators 1.1 and 1.2)

Relevant activities: 1.1 Commission a study of Taobuid agriculture and resource use and food security from a national specialist; 1.2 Conduct socio economic and ethnographic studies of one Taobuid village in order to understand how new practices in agriculture and land use can best be assimilated.

Prior to the project the Taobuid were one of the least studied and poorly understood Indigenous groups in the Philippines. Through a review of the few previous studies that exist, formal and informal exchanges with Taobuid leaders and members, structured meetings and workshops, and research conducted by our Indigenous para-anthropologists' we now have a much more detailed understanding of the tribe.

Under Activity 1.1, a study 'Initial Documentation of Indigenous Political Structure, Land Use, Hunting and other Resource Use Practices of the Taobuid in MIBNP' was completed in 2021.(Annexe 1). Under Activity 1.2 we continually added to our knowledge about the Taobuid, collating this into a 'living document' entitled 'State of knowledge on Taobuid Land Use and Natural Resource Use Practices'. (Annexe 2). The team also collated a lexicon of the Fanaubuid language.

The improved understanding from these activities provided an essential foundation for all work with the Taobuid, as well as a means for building the understanding of the personnel of MIBNP, the DENR, the NCIP and members of the Taobuid themselves. The studies formed the foundation of the Community Conservation Plan (see Output 2.3).

In response to the COVID pandemic, to the restrictions on visits by expert social science researchers, and to the fact that members of the more remote Tau Buid communities do not allow outsiders to visit their settlements, we adopted an innovative and effective alternative social science research approach. Working with Professor Leah Abayao from the College of Social Sciences at the University of the Philippines, Baguio and with social geography consultant Dr Julia Tichit, we developed an online training course in basic research techniques for three members of the project team and for three 'para-anthropologists' from the local community. The aim was to enable the team to conduct more thorough documentation of upland communities who share their living space with the tamaraw and to obtain information (with their permission) about communities unwilling to accept outside researchers.

Following preliminary computer training, three interactive blended learning modules were delivered on Indigenous-focused research design, formulation of objectives and research questions, data collection methods, analysis, writing and uses of the final product. Participants then chose research topics including the history and importance of rice among the Taobuid, the different fishing methods used by the communities, activities related to the planting of rice, what the Taobuid in highly assimilated settlements still consider as sacred, the evolution of the alternative educational system in highly assimilated settlements, and initial assessment of production and consumption of rice and other food sources in more remote settlements. Information gathered has been incorporated into the reports listed under Activities 1.1 and 1.2 and has been used in three main ways

- To add information as it is acquired to the 'state of knowledge' report.
- To provide a comprehensive factual basis for the development and negotiation of the Community Conservation Plan (see Activity 2.3).
- To enable a better understanding by the project team and the PAMO of the socio-cultural context of their work, enabling them to build more informed relations with the Taobuid.

Training and Learning (Indicators 1.3 and 1.5)

Relevant activities: 1.3 Conduct exchanges, training events and study visits from the Taobuid to other Indigenous initiatives in the Philippines; 1.5 Provide training/exchange opportunities for project staff.

Training and learning during the project took four main forms and delivered at least 730 person-training days (see Annexe 3 for a summary table).

1. Study visit to Mt Kitanglad Range National Park. In February 2023, two members of the DAF project team accompanied four Taobuid (three males and one female) on a study visit to Mount Kitanglad Range National Park on the island of Mindanao. This activity was supported by an additional grant from Re:wild. (A report from the visit is included in Annexe 4).
2. Training on socioeconomic field research for local and indigenous 'para-anthropologists'. See information on Activity 1.2
3. Training (both on-site and off-site) on permaculture/nature friendly agriculture techniques delivered by Philippines Permaculture Association. This provided essential skills and knowledge related to Activity 1.4
4. Technical training for rangers, MIBNP and TCP staff.

In addition, the project team provided continuous informal mentoring and assistance with field deployment for personnel of MIBNP, the TCP, the NCIP and the Taobuid people. All project activities have taken place with local counterparts/participants, building their capacity and confidence and also allowing the project team to learn from them.

Demonstration of new techniques for agriculture, agroforestry and forest restoration (Indicator 1.4)

Relevant activities: 1.4 Establish an area inside MIBNP for trials and demonstrations of agriculture and agroforestry techniques.

The 8.5ha demonstration area established at and around Ranger Station 2 in MIBNP, based on permaculture principles, has been the centrepiece of a successful initiative to explore and demonstrate methods for improved sustainable agriculture and landscape restoration. Work was led on a day-to-day basis by two female project employees Cleo Hechanova and Fransly Ignacio, who each week made the 3-hour forest trek up to Station 2 and lived there until returning home at the weekend. They were supervised by Project Manager, Ronet Santos, who visited for 1-3 days each fortnight and kept in contact via mobile phone. Rangers based at the station helped tend the garden, and Taobuid members were welcomed to visit, observe and participate as they wished. Technical training was provided by the Philippine Permaculture Association. This programme of work had three main areas of activity, based on permaculture principles (see Figure 3 for locations)

Model Garden around the ranger station

Purpose: i) To demonstrate sustainable horticultural and agricultural crops and techniques with potential for adoption by Taobuid communities; ii) to provide a sustainable and affordable supply of fresh food for the rangers, who had

hitherto had to provide their own rations; iii) to develop a system of exchange based on local crops and natural resources (and not cash transactions).

The team has created planting beds, a seed nursery, a tree nursery, a chicken coop, composting system and waste segregation system. Kitchen facilities, water supply and treatment and irrigation systems have been updated. The gardens are maintained by the project permaculture officers and by the rangers. The garden produces a regular supply of around 25 vegetables and fruits for the rangers, for visitors and for trading with the Taobuid. A rice bank and storage area (*dongdong*) for use by the Taobuid has been also constructed.

Food forest (agroforestry demonstration).

Purpose: To test and demonstrate agroforestry techniques through creation of a 'forest garden'.

The 1 ha. food forest is divided into three strips, with a stream fed irrigation system using bamboo pipes. 132 fruit trees of 12 species have been planted as well as banana and a range of crops. A small shade hut has been built for workers in the area.

Habitat restoration experimental area

Purpose: i) To demonstrate and test agroforestry techniques; ii) to establish and research managed forest restoration and recovery, as a precursor to potential wider restoration programmes in the Park.

This area of former rangeland that had previously been annually burned and was dominated by *Imperata* grassland was divided into two equal portions, both protected from grazing and from burning by a cultivated firebreak.

'non-intervention', where self-sown or regenerating seedlings are located, documented and measured. The area was and monitored using a series of permanent transects. Table 2 shows that tree survival over 18 months was low, due to the height and density of the dominant *Imperata* grass. However of the 39 saplings found in Dec 2023, 11 were taller than 1m (above the grass). It remains to be seen if these few emergent trees will be able to shade the grass, enabling more successful natural regeneration around them.

'with intervention' where a range of techniques were used to establish new trees and to assist natural regeneration. 42 biomass planting mounds were constructed based on permaculture principles using cut vegetation and decaying wood. These were planted with seeds and seedlings, and were also subject to natural regeneration from seeds in the biomass and from other sources. The numbers of trees and the survival rates at the end of the project are shown in Table 3. Overall survival was 58%, with the highest from naturally regenerating plants. This technique, though labour intensive at the start, is simple and is enabling much faster forest regeneration than the control plot. *Picture 1* show fixed point photographs of the progress made.

Images from the demonstration area are included in Annexe 5.

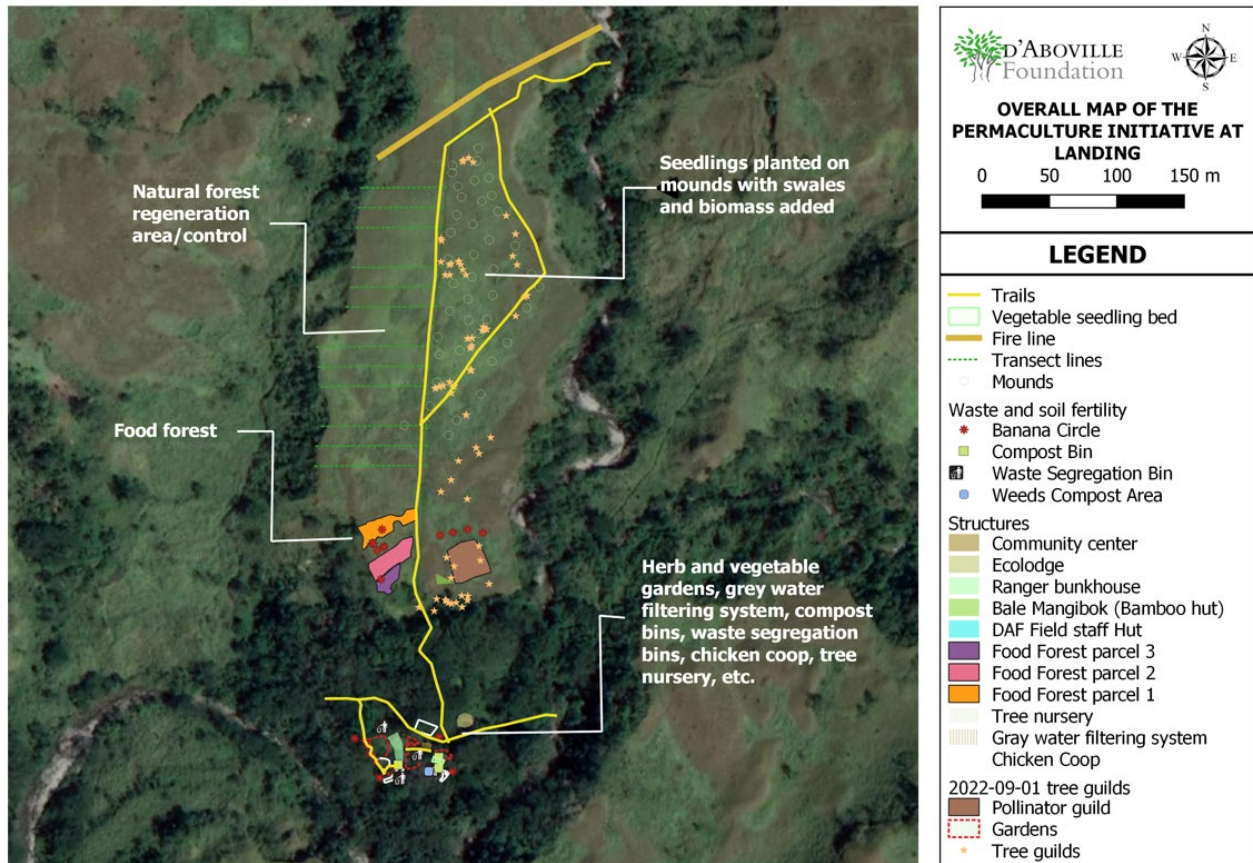


Figure 3 Overall map of the permaculture initiative area

Taobuid/Tagalog name	Scientific name	Number and date observed			
		Jun-22	Dec-22	Jul-23	Dec-23
Anapla	<i>Albizia procera</i>	29	23	42	22
Bayabas	<i>Psidium guajava</i>	5	7	12	9
Kalamayo	<i>Mitragyna speciosa</i>	5	4	5	3
Almuyo	<i>Ficus nota</i>	2	2		1
Bane		1		1	1
Langka	<i>Artocarpus heterophyllus</i>				1
Mabyon				2	1
Tiyagtag	<i>Ficus septica</i>	1	1	2	1
Lanete	<i>Wrightia arborea</i>		1		
Malsaot			1	1	
Totals		43	39	65	39

Table 2 Survival of tree seedlings located on permanent transects in the non intervention area.

Origin	# planted	# alive	# dead	% alive
Natural dispersion	278	212	66	76%
Biomass	106	73	33	69%
Planted-Wildling	662	364	298	55%
Planted-Seed	246	105	141	43%
Totals	1,292	754	538	58%

Table 3 Survival of tree seedlings on planting mounds (as of September 2024)



Picture 1 Fixed point photography showing vegetation changes in the habitat restoration experimental area

The work on the garden and restoration area was formally recognised by a national award presented to the Protected Area Superintendent of MIBNP on 19 July 2023. See Picture 2



Picture 2 Award presented to MIBNP and the TCP for the permaculture project.

Output 2 At least two Taobuid communities (approximately 200 men, women and children) are engaged in implementing agreed plans of activities to improve sustainability of resource and land use and rehabilitate damaged landscapes in and around Tamaraw habitat.

Indicator	Means of verification	Notes
2.1 Options and requirements for appropriate landscape rehabilitation, agriculture and sustainable resource use inside MIBNP are identified and agreed in collaboration with the Tau-Buid in the form of Community Conservation Plans.	2.1 Formally documented and agreed Community Conservation Plans for the Tau Buid territory that overlaps with Tamaraw Habitat signed by the end of 2022/3	The CCP, developed with and approved by the Taobuid, was officially approved by the Protected Area Management Board on November 21, 2023. The focal area comprised 3 communities (Tagurades, Bayanan and Bangkodo) totally approximately 225 people.
2.2 Approx. 100 members of at least 1 Tau-Buid community are making use of extension support and advice to improve agricultural productivity and sustainability in their village lands.	2.2 Annual follow-up studies of community uptake of extension advice and support	All community members are aware of the support. Some are known to be using it and others requested for support to use it. Lack of access to Taobuid settlements prevents precise verification.
2.3 Joint programmes of the Tau-Buid and the PAMO are operating for improved fire management, erosion control and invasive species control in Tamaraw habitats adjacent to Tau-Buid communities.	2.3 Monitoring plots/fixed point photographs and other studies documenting landscape change resulting from interventions	Monitoring of restoration area demonstrates effectiveness of interventions. Landscape management measures included in the Community Conservation Plan (see 2.1).

Work towards this output was led by project manager Ronet Santos and consultant Dr Julia Tichit Navarro, with close involvement of the Punong Tribu of the Taobuid.

Development of the Taobuid Community Conservation Plan (Indicator 2.1)

Relevant activities.2.1 *Hold participatory resource management planning events with the Taobuid*; 2.2 *Support participatory identification of location and boundaries of Community Conservation Plan (CCP) areas inside MIBNP*; 2.3 *Support participatory development of management and action plans for the Community Conservation Plan.*

The development of the CCP has been a major focus of the project. Endorsement of the plan by both the Taobuid and the Protected Area Management Board is testament to the approach and dedication of the project team, and has been achieved despite a long period when the COVID-19 pandemic prevented direct interaction with the Taobuid. The main factors that have enabled this have been.

- i) The foundation work done under Output 1 on understanding the culture and life of the Taobuid. The deployment of the community 'para-anthropologists' was crucial in this work, as it provided a channel for trustful communication with Taobuid member who normally avoid contact with outsiders.
- ii) The continuous process of slow trust building with the Taobuid. For example, allowing the process to proceed at a pace determined by the tribe, not imposing predetermined agendas and timetables, enabling inputs from as many stakeholders as possible (for example by reading out each draft of the plan line by line in the local language for the benefit of those not able to read or write).
- iii) Framing the plan around the language and traditions of the Taobuid.

There were four main stages to the CCP planning process.

Stage 1. Information gathering. The starting point was negotiation with the Punong Tribu over the process and scale of the plan. It was decided that it should focus on the territories of three Layer 2 settlements (Tagurades, Bayanan and Bangkodo: total population ca. 225) whose community territories intersect with the Tamaraw range. The first stage was to gather information from the area, using analysis of satellite imagery, interviewing Taobuid willing to share information and gathering information through the 'para-anthropologist' team.

Stage 2. Establishing the cultural context for the plan. In a meeting with the Punong Tribu in August 2022, he set out three main purposes of the CCP from the perspective of the Taobuid.

1. To serve as a reminder to the Taobuid, especially the young generation, of the principles and the practices that define their culture.
2. To communicate to others these principles and practices and thereby assert the identity of the tribe.
3. To help align the cultural world of the Taobuid with the conservation objectives of the protected area.

The project team agreed with the Taobuid a translation into Fanaubuid of the term Community Conservation Plan: '*Fasadan noggalaga fagbanwanan Taobuid ay mangilafang sadbasad MIBNP*' (approximate translation: "Plan for managing the home of the Taobuid and wildlife habitat within MIBNP"). The Taobuid do not have a culture of reading and writing, their social organization is primarily based on kinship, and their understanding of temporal reality is governed by seasonal cycles rather than five- or ten-year planning cycles. Accordingly, a different type of plan was called for (but one that could have an analogous 'conventional' plan for use by the PAMO); it was agreed that in order to ensure ownership and relevance of the plan, the version used by the Taobuid should be aligned as far as possible with their traditional cultural practices and should be diagram and illustration-based, and be written in Fanaubuid.

Stage 3. Drafting and consultation

- August 2021 to August 2022: Interview Sessions with Punong Tribu Fausto Novelozo, Taobuid elders, Taobuid members, Taobuid rangers and Taobuid PAMO Staff.
- August 18, 2022: Initial meeting between the Punong Tribu and DAF staff on the contents and the process of writing the CCP. Preparation of the first draft outline.
- December 15, 2022: 1st Multistakeholder Meeting on the draft CCP (Punong Tribu, Taobuid Elders, MIBNP, Rangers, PASu and representative of DAF).
- February 22, 2023: 2nd Multistakeholder Meeting
- March 18, 2023: 3rd Multistakeholder Meeting
- May 22, 2023: 4th Multistakeholder Meeting

Stage 4. Endorsement

- June 21, 2023: 5th Multistakeholder Meeting. Agreement of the final draft for consideration by the MIBNP Protected Area Management Board (PAMB).
- August 17, 2023: The CCP was discussed at the PAMB technical working committee on Indigenous Communities
- November 21, 2023: The CCP was presented to the full MIBNP PAMB for their recognition and incorporation in the MIBNP management plan. The PAMB approved and recognized the CCP with minor changes. The CCP is a

“living document” and a “framework plan” which means it will continually be updated as the dialogue continues between the park authorities, LGUs, civil society, and the Taobuid.

The latest version of the CCP is included in Annex 6. This includes details of agreed actions and the planning process.

Agricultural extension (Indicator 2.2).

Relevant activities. 2.4 Work with at least one selected village to enable and encourage uptake of agricultural extension advice; 2.5 Identify and mobilise potential sources of additional extension support for implementing CCPs.

It was not possible for the project team to work directly with Layer 2 villages, as visits by outsiders are not permitted, but this did not prevent learning and knowledge exchange. Uptake of extension support and advice was based on ‘learning by seeing’, using the demonstration area. The strategy of the programme remained anchored in letting the Taobuid see for themselves the possibilities, to continue to build trust, to engage them in conversation but never to pressure or induce them to participate in any activity. During the project, increasing numbers of Taobuid (including women) became curious about what was being done; they started bringing planting material to barter for goods they could not obtain, observing activities and training events in the kitchen garden, the forest garden and restoration area, and engaging the staff in informal conversation. In the last months, some offered to work in the area, and clan leaders reversed an earlier decision forbidding members to do so. We do not have direct evidence that they are adopting the techniques they are observing as we cannot visit their villages.

Encouragingly, Taobuid members in the Level 1 communities have expressed open interest in the permaculture project at Station 2 and have asked for support for a project in the lowlands, where Taobuid people are more open to extension advice. If these communities start to adopt new agricultural methods, it is much more likely that their relatives in more remote communities will follow.

In March 2023 DAF secured approval for a grant from a new donor (Mandai Nature) of minimum USD 20,000 per year for three years to focus on continuing the work with the Taobuid for implementation of the Community Conservation Plan after the Darwin project. This will enable continuation of activities at Ranger Station 2. Given the interest of lowland Taobuid members in the permaculture activities, we are seeking rural development funding to support this, on the basis that it will directly help these communities and will also increase the chances of adoption by the more remote communities in the Tamaraw range.

Improved landscape management (Indicator 2.3)

Relevant activities. 2.6 . Develop and implement strategies and joint actions for fire management, erosion control and invasive species control.

The restoration area (described under Output 1.4) shows that in the absence of burning, natural regeneration of trees is widespread, and is accelerated using planting mounds. The cessation of burning as a prerequisite for the annual Tamaraw census (a result of adoption of new methods for census: see Output 3) will enable future monitoring of post burning ecosystem changes at a larger scale. However, seasonal burning is an established cultural practice for the Taobuid. One social geography workshop (see Activity 1.5) focused on ‘cultural burning’, enabling staff to gain a deeper understanding of this practice. The topics of interviews with the Taobuid have included the use of fire (*faglabean*) by the Taobuid, the purposes and reasons for this, and how burning is controlled and managed. An agreement of ‘rules’ for burning and the maintenance of firebreaks protecting agreed non burning areas is included in the Community Conservation Plan.

With respect to overall habitat quality, DAF has been by the UNDP-BIOFIN project to provide technical assistance to a team carrying out in depth habitat assessments inside MIBNP, with the aim of producing a landscape scale restoration plan that could be funded by BIOFIN.

The project has produced a video on the dry season, including use of fire in the Park.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZpYN5rxGQ-A&t=5s>

Output 3 The Tamaraw population is well protected, stable or increasing and occupying an increased protected zone of at least 2,500ha.

Indicator	Means of verification	Notes
3.1 The Tamaraw population is stable or increasing from the 2019 baseline (480) by the end of year 3 (adjusted to accommodate more accurate census techniques).	3.1 Results of annual surveys (using an updated version of the method used for the last 18 years)	The census method has been successfully revised, published and applied. The new method shows a much lower but much more accurate total (200-250), mainly due to flaws in the previously used method. The revised

		population count has triggered increased official attention to conservation measures.
3.2 An enlarged no hunting area of 2,500ha and associated regulations is agreed with the tau-Buid by the end of year 2	3.2 Documented no hunting agreement.	The current no hunting zone (1,560 ha) has been extended by a new 'safe reproduction zone' of 1,700 ha giving a total of 3,260 ha, exceeding the target. The map of the new safe reproduction zone has been agreed by the Taobuid.
3.3 Documented overall patrol effort at least doubles by end of year 2	3.3 Patrol coverage as documented by SMART* records	Disruption caused by COVID-19 removed all personnel from the field for 18 months. Organisational changes delayed redeployment of the rangers. A funded plan for addressing shortcomings put into action during 2023.
3.4 All rangers are adequately trained equipped and led by end of year 2	3.4 Scores from annual assessments of Wildlife Crime Prevention capacity using Re:wild's standard monitoring tool.	Scores improved from 2018 baseline in 2019. No assessments possible during COVID. Score was the same in March 2023 as in 2019 (see text for details)
3.5 Poaching and other avoidable mortality of Tamaraw is documented and demonstrates a decrease by the end of year 3 (target max 3 avoidable deaths per year)	3.5 Reports from SMART planned and documented patrols by rangers and indigenous people show a decrease in violations from a baseline established in year 1	Gaps in recording during COVID prevents detailed analysis
3.6 Improved awareness by end of Year 1 in MIBNP boundary communities and agencies of the need to prevent Tamaraw poaching	3.6 Information available in all boundary communities and all relevant agencies adjoining the Tamaraw area.	Support for the annual Tamaraw month enables widespread local awareness. Agency and wider awareness through videos and online media.

Tamaraw Numbers and population monitoring (Indicator 3.1)

Relevant activities. 3.1 Support and development of and implement refined census techniques for Tamaraw; 3.2 Conduct and analyse annual Tamaraw census. .

The overall aim of this work was to develop Tamaraw census techniques that were more accurate than those used for the previous 18 years, and that did not require burning of the grassland to enable observation of the animals. In 2021/2 the project team formulated a new double observer point count system that would reduce biases and flaws in the regular annual count. In April 2022, ten project-trained PAMO and TCP rangers tested the new method, which requires paired observers to record independently and simultaneously all animals observed from the same vantage point. By comparing the proportion of Tamaraw seen by individual observers and by both it is possible to calculate the detectability rate and refine the result. In addition, in April/May 2023, the ranger team undertook double observer distance sampling of Tamaraw Dung along 27 transect lines in MIBNP. The aim was to calibrate this method against the results of the double observer point counts, so that eventually Tamaraw could be counted using the dung detection method alone, removing the need for burning the grassland.

The team then analysed the results and prepared a detailed report '*Estimation of tamaraw population size at Mts. Iglit-Baco Natural Park: a comparison between the simultaneous multi vantage points count method and the double observer point count estimator*', which shows that the previous official population counts of the Tamaraw (>400 animals) have been unrealistically high, and that based on the new system, the actual number of tamaraw in the monitoring area is only around 200 individuals. Two main reasons were identified for the previous overestimates; i) The intrinsic subjective nature of the simultaneous multi-vantage point count method; and ii) the cumulative nature of the multi-vantage point count estimator.

The report recommends adoption of the double observer count method, as well as a review of the results of the 2018 Population and Habitat Viability Assessment workshop based on the lower population estimate. It highlights the urgent need to address the problem of density dependence and the fact that the species requires more space at MIBNP. A detailed proposal for deployment of the revised census method entitled "*Proposal for new tamaraw population monitoring methods at Mts. Iglit-Baco Natural Park, Philippines*" was presented to the relevant authorities in March 2023. The successful expansion of the safe breeding zone for Tamaraw is a result of this work.

The survey results were discussed with the MIBNP Protected Area Superintendent (PaSu), the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB), Tamaraw Conservation Program (TCP) Coordinator, DENR Mimaropa Regional Executive Director and her technical staff and the Biodiversity Management Bureau. In October, international partners from the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Asian Wild Cattle Specialist Group (AWCSG), Zoological Society of London (ZSL), visited the Philippines and met the new Regional Executive Director (RED) of DENR Mimaropa. In that meeting, it was agreed that a technical conference on census techniques would be organized in the first quarter of 2024.

It is of concern that the number of Tamaraw is half what it had previously been thought to be; while this does mean that the desired output has not been met, it is highly important that the project has been able to reveal that this information, as it affects all future planning for the survival of the species. The information has helped galvanise more action and commitment from the relevant authorities on using better census methods, on protecting the remaining herd, on expanding the area where they are protected from hunting (see Indicator 3.2 below), and on improving performance of the management of MIBNP. Relevant reports and photos of field work are included in Annexes 7a-7c. 7b.

Enlarging the no hunting area (Indicator 3.2)

Relevant activities. 3.3 Agree an enlarged no hunting area with the Taobuid.

Discussions with the Taobuid on the expansion of the existing 1,560ha no hunting zone emphasised the need for an expanded 'safe zone' for Tamaraw; the current area is too small to support a viable population even if well protected. The Taobuid leadership agreed with this in the context of the traditional concept of "*fagfatungkudan mangilafang*" (wildlife reproduction area), as part of the participatory development of the Community Conservation plan (see Output 2). An initial area of 2,100ha was provisionally identified on maps. In November 2023 (delayed since July 2023 due to bad weather), a participatory ground delineation of the boundary of the safe reproduction zone took place, with twenty persons comprising representatives of Taobuid whose lands would be affected by new zone, PAMO rangers, TCP rangers, and DAF field staff. The survey eventually identified and mapped an area of 1,700ha (Figure 4). This area has been agreed in principle (subject to some minor necessary boundary adjustments) and is included in the community conservation plan.

Adding this area to the current no hunting area gives a total of 3,260ha, 760 ha more than the target in the project plan. This is especially important, given that the report '*Estimation of tamaraw population size at Mts. Iglit-Baco Natural Park: a comparison between the simultaneous multi vantage points count method and the double observer point count estimator*', highlights that population growth is likely limited by the lack of safe habitat available to the remaining population.

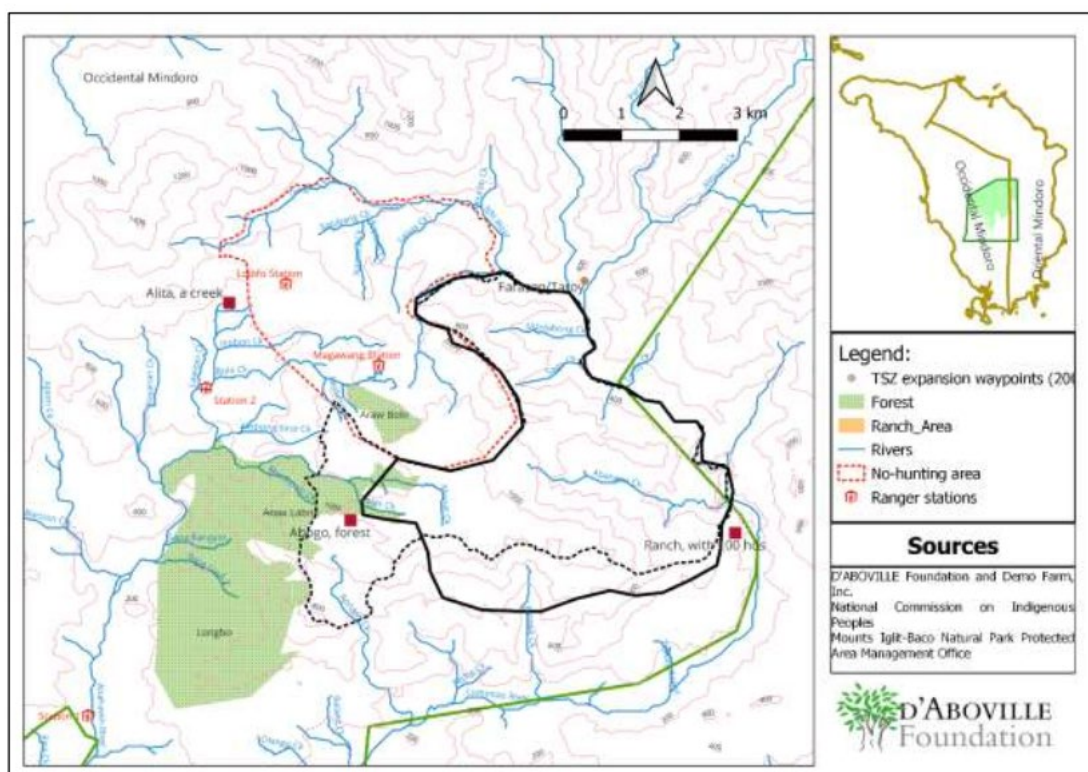


Figure 4. Proposed boundary of the expansion area of the tamaraw safe reproduction zone after the ground survey

Law enforcement and crime prevention (Outputs 3.3, 3.4, 3.5)

Relevant activities. 3.4 Train, equip and support rangers to improve protection and monitor and plan activities using SMART (Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool) software. 3.5 Collate statistics and publish an annual law enforcement and wildlife crime prevention report.

Activities were led by Emmanuel Schutz, Ronet Santos and Fernando Garcia from DAF with support from crime prevention from James Slade from Re:wild.

Law enforcement and protection activities are the responsibility of the PAMO of MIBNP under the direction of the PaSu and by the head of the Tamaraw Conservation Programme. The project provided support and advice from all team members, with specific technical support and advice from James Slade, wildlife crime prevention officer from Re:wild.

For 18 months during the COVID-19 pandemic, law enforcement efforts were severely disrupted in MIBNP, as the rangers were only intermittently deployed in the field, government regulations prevented the movement of personnel, and the Taobuid themselves closed their territory to outsiders for long periods to protect themselves. There is anecdotal information but no firm evidence that Tamaraw poaching may have increased in this period, as outsiders took advantage of the lack of protection and surveillance. Tamaraw Conservation Programme rangers continued to document activities using SMART, but not sufficiently to provide good data for analysis. Following the pandemic, a reorganisation of protected area personnel increased the numbers of rangers in MIBNP, but also redeployed the most experienced Tamaraw Conservation Programme rangers to other areas, reducing capacity in MIBNP.

Appointment of a new Protected Area Superintendent with a law enforcement background in late 2022 started to address these issues, and in 2023 Re:wild and DAF partnered with the IUCN Species Survival Commission Asian Wild Cattle Specialist Group and the Zoological Society of London in a successful 2-year funding application to the Segre Foundation (ca EUR 100,000 over three years), which includes support for reviving protection activities. Activities during 2023 co-funded by the new grant include:

- Appointment of law enforcement specialist to supplement the DAF team and work continually with authorities to train rangers and improve protection.
- A mission by James Slade, Re:wild Wildlife Crime Prevention Specialist to review the current status of SMART and to upgrade the SMART databases at MIBNP PAMO and TCP.
- A capacity-building workshop that included sessions on the basics of SMART and GIS. This workshop was attended by all the rangers of PAMO.
- A three-day workshop with the DENR to review Tamaraw Conservation Management Action Plan [TCMAP], revive wildlife crime prevention and explore the feasibility of ex-situ conservation measures.
- Training for two of the MIBNP-PAMO's Law Enforcement Officers SMART Partnership data analysis from December 10-17, 2023. This training also served as an avenue to identify the challenges and difficulties of patrolling efforts in MIBNP.
- In 2022 The Tamaraw Conservation Program, the UNDP BIOFIN programme and the project made representations to the DENR about employment conditions of contractual rangers. As a consequence, these rangers have now for the first time received adequate personal insurance (see Annexe 8). This change is helping to considerably to improve ranger morale.

Re:wild has its own internal Wildlife Crime Prevention assessment tool , which has been used to monitor progress. The summary results are shown in *Table 4*. These show improvements between 2018 and 2019 before the start of the project. No assessments were possible during 2020-2022, but it is likely that some deterioration would have been detected. By March 2023 the situation had recovered to that of December 2019 and is almost certainly still improving.

	April 2018	Dec 2019 (project baseline).	Mar 2023
PERSONNEL	1	2	2
RESOURCES	1	2	2
LEGAL	2	2	2
STRATEGY AND PLANNING	2	2	2
OPERATIONS	2	2	2
COLLABORATION	2	2	2
MONITORING AND IMPACT	1	2	2
KEY: 0 = No effective activity, 1: Limited effective activity; 2 = Some effective activity 3= Mainly effective activity; 4. Highly effective activity			

Table 4 Re:wild Wildlife Crime Prevention Score Summaries 2018- 2023

Overall therefore, while protection efforts have fallen short of what was originally planned (largely due to the COVID-19 pandemic), this work has been significantly revived in 2023, and funding secured to ensure that the momentum continues beyond the Darwin project.

Awareness (Indicator 3.6)

Relevant activities. 3.6 Conduct an awareness campaign on the management of MIBNP need for tamaraw conservation. Focal groups - Park edge communities - Local government units and official agencies with an interest in MIBNP.

Awareness activities were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, which limited travel and gatherings over 15 months. None-the-less a lot has been achieved.

General Public Awareness. The project participates in and contributes to events organised by the Tamaraw Conservation Programme for the popular and widely supported Tamaraw Month each October (as a virtual event during the pandemic)

Conference presentations. Project personnel made presentations and submitted posters at At the Second Asia Parks Congress in Sabah Malaysia in May 2022., Mike Appleton made a presentation on behalf of the local team (who were not able to attend) entitled ‘*Merging National Legislation and Indigenous Customary Laws to Manage Landscape and Preserve Wildlife inside a Philippine ASEAN Heritage Park*’. A poster was also presented entitled ‘*Supporting the application Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title of the Taobuid indigenous peoples sharing borders with an ASEAN Heritage Park.*’

At the 30th Philippine Biodiversity Symposium in December 2022, DAF manager Emmanuel Schütz presented “*New estimate of tamaraw population using the double observer estimator: consequences in terms of conservation*”; Ronet Santos presented “*Merging national legislation and indigenous cultural land-use system to manage landscapes and preserve wildlife*” along with a poster “*Supporting the Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title of Indigenous group sharing borders with an ASEAN Heritage Park*”. Fernando Garcia Gil presented “*Assessment of small tamaraw sub-populations in Mindoro using camera trap technology: the case of Aruyan-Malati region*” and the poster “*What camera trap survey teaches us about local biodiversity in Mindoro*”.

Videos. Initially in response to the pandemic, DAF switched to using videos to document and share the Journey towards a sustainable bio-cultural landscape at Mounts Iglit-Baco Natural Park. These videos are

Permaculture system in Mts Iglit Baco Natural Park. Video 1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4jklprbHlxU>

Permaculture system in Mts Iglit-Baco Natural Park. Video 2.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zVKwrt69RMA&t=8s>

Journey towards a sustainable bio-cultural landscape at Mts Iglit-Baco Natural Park.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZpYN5rxGQ-A>

Assessing small tamaraw populations with camera trap technology. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J9JKQElx6es>

Exploring alternative Tamaraw census methods.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J9JKQElx6es&t=311s>

Meet the team videos. Introducing the people who are implementing the project

Meet the team: Ronet <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oPaDm91gg5g>

Meet the team: Manu <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xnVEfFycpUQ>

Meet the team: Narcissa <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7I7oqSomso4>

Meet the team: Diego <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fOz2RaaALT4>

Meet the team; Jackie <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sKvC8V007pk>

Meet the team: Francly <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rk4Fh8Ybenk>

Meet the team: Cleo <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bf28VpHZ5XM>

Meet the team: Fernando <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qrvdAR03vw0>

Social Media and news

DAF have, with advice from the Re:wild social media team, intensified their Facebook presence and include regular posts about project activities. They have more than 2000 followers.

<https://www.facebook.com/dabovillefoundation>

DAF also provides project related news and stories on its website. <https://www.dabovillefoundation.org/community-tamaraw-driven-landscape-pr>

DAF also produces and circulates a newsletter including news from the project.

https://www.dabovillefoundation.org/files/ugd/66763c_a71712e104894ac69e8c197af08f9826.pdf

Output 4 A claim for the rights of the Taobuid in their Ancestral Domain is prepared and submitted by the end of the project.

Indicators	Verification	Notes
4.1 Agreed programme of support mobilised by the end of 2020 to enable completion of the Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title (CADT).	4.1 Signed agreements for project support for the CADT process and the ADSDPP process (subject to FPIC)	Tripartite Memorandum of Agreement signed 10 February 2022 between DAF, NCIP Occidental Mindoro, and the Tao-Buid leaders confirming that DAF and the Taobuid will provide resources for NCIP Occidental Mindoro to implement a work and financial plan (WFP) for processing the ancestral domain claim.
4.2 Process agreed and support mobilised with the NCIP and the Tau-Buid by the end of 2020 for developing the required Ancestral Domain Sustainable Development Plan (ADSDPP) integrated with the MIBNP management plan.	4.2 Documented outputs from agreed processes and activities (meeting minutes, maps, workshop reports etc)	All major meetings and events were documented by the project team. All official events and activities were documented (as legally required) by the NCIP. Funding agreement signed with the NCIP on 31 March 2022 for provision of financial support by the project (as agreed under the tripartite agreement).
4.3 All CADT and ADSDPP requirements for the area of Ancestral Domain inside MIBNP completed by end of 2022.	4.3 Complete CADT dossier	The survey data from the participatory boundary delineation were submitted to the NCIP Regional Office and were endorsed to and received by the NCIP Central Office.
4.4 Full CADT proposal and ADSDPP completed and submitted by end of project.	4.4 Complete CADT dossier	The map was submitted to the Ancestral Domains Office (ADO) of the Central Office of the NCIP and recognized as the official map of the Taobuid tribe. The Taobuid Tribe and the Provincial Office of the NCIP are currently waiting for the memorandum Order from ADO which will direct the NCIP to facilitate the map projection, map validation, and publication. THE NCIP has committed to funding the remaining stages of the process.

Relevant activities: 4.1 Conduct a review of the current status of the Taobuid claim and the reasons for the rejection of the previous claim; 4.2 Clarify the processes required to obtain a CADT and complete the ADSDPP inside MIBNP; 4.3 Formalise agreement with the Taobuid and the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) for provision of support; 4.4 Provide resources to support the CADT and ADSDPP process, based on the requests of the Taobuid and the NCIP.

Work in this output was led by project community officer Juanita 'Nina' Saet, supported by Ronet Santos. It should be noted that the mandate for preparation of the Ancestral Domain claim lies with the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples and the Taobuid themselves. The role of the project was to provide resources (in particular for field work, consultation events and mapping), encouragement, facilitation and working with the partners to overcome delays.

Preparation and submission of the Ancestral Domain claim (Indicators 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4)

The start of the process was delayed by a year by the pandemic. During this time the project team familiarised themselves with the process required for an Ancestral Domain claim, researched the work done on the previous unsuccessful claim by the Taobuid, discussed the process with the Taobuid leadership and established contact with the relevant NCIP offices and leaders. Activities started more formally in 2022.

Summary of completed events and activities.

- 10 February 2022, a tripartite Memorandum of Agreement was signed between DAF, NCIP Occidental Mindoro, and the Tao-Buid leaders confirming the agreement that DAF and the Taobuid will provide resources for NCIP Occidental Mindoro to implement a work and financial plan (WFP) for processing the ancestral domain claim. At the event DAF, local government units and four Taobuid mandatory representatives pledged funds to support the process (Annexe 9).
- 31 March 2022, Memorandum Order 2022-03-037 was issued by the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) Regional Office delegating the NCIP Mindoro Provincial Team to work on the CADT Application of the Taobuid ICC in Calintaan and Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro (Annexe 9).
- June 2023. Following lengthy delays due to the non availability of an officially sanctioned geodetic engineer, the CADT claim area inside MIBNP was officially surveyed in the field and mapped (including finding markers from a previous claim).
- In February 2023 the CADT claim area in Oriental Mindoro (outside MIBNP) was officially surveyed in the field and the results mapped. This involved a 9-day field expedition on foot in remote forest areas, with more than 30 participants including the official survey engineer, NCIP officials, Taobuid leaders and numerous Taobuid guides and porters (Annexe 10).
- March 2023 Taobuid leaders met with leaders of neighbouring Bangon and Batangan tribes to successfully resolve potential conflicts over boundaries.
- June 2023. Boundary surveys in Calintaan and in the Sablayan Prison and Penal Farm (SPPF).
- Sept 2023. A meeting with the Taobuid elders and leaders to validate the survey data that the Provincial Delineation Team (PDT) had gathered during the survey.
- Oct 2023. The official map (Figure 4) was completed and finalized.
- November 2023. The survey data were submitted by the PDT to the NCIP Regional Office and were endorsed to and received by the NCIP Central Office
- The map was submitted to the Ancestral Domains Office (ADO) of the Central Office of the NCIP and recognized as the official map of the Taobuid tribe. The Taobuid Tribe and the Provincial Office of the NCIP are currently waiting for the memorandum Order from ADO which will direct the NCIP to facilitate the map projection, map validation, and publication.

The following formal stages are still to be completed. The NCIP has made a commitment to the Taobuid that they will support and expedite these activities. To that end, the project has done all that it can.

- Final validation and publication of the map.
- Preparation with the NCIP of the Taobuid Claim Book before the application is deliberated and approved by the Commission en banc.
- Research will be conducted on the titled lands within the ancestral, which will be segregated based on the result of the map projection with the Department of Agrarian Reform, DENR, and Land Registration Administration.
- Awarding of the Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title.

Given the loss of over a year during the pandemic, and the succession of delays that followed, the project team considers the progress made on the ancestral domain claim a major success, far beyond our expectations when activities started in 2022. The project has done as much as it can to facilitate and expedite the process, and the NCIP is now committed to seeing it through. In March 2023 the coordinator of this work, Juanita ‘Nina’ Saet was recognised by the regional DENR as a ‘Gender and Development Champion’ for the MIMAROPA region of DENR (see Picture 3).

3.2 Outcome

Project Outcome: A viable Tamaraw population thrives in a restored, sustainable biocultural landscape in Mounts Iglit-Baco Natural Park, where the Taobuid tribe maintain their cultural identify and lifestyle in their recognised Ancestral Domain.

Indicators	Verification
0.1 PHVA (population and habitat viability analysis) shows improved viability of the Tamaraw population from the 2018 baseline.	0.1 PHVA analysis at the end of Y3 based on annual Tamaraw census using an improved standard method (data exist for 10 years).
02 The Tau-Buid and the PAMO are working collaboratively to implement agreed plans and programmes of work for sustainable stewardship of the acknowledged Tau-Buid territory inside MIBNP.	0.2 Agreed official plans for management of the Tau-Buid territory that include specific measures to reduce land degradation and increase productivity.
0.3 The safe area available to Tamaraw has increased to at least 3,000 ha	0.3 Plans for land and resource management with the Tau-Buid include an expanded protection area for tamaraw from the 2019 baseline of 1600 ha

0.4 Formal claim has been prepared for official certification of the ancestral domain (CADT) of the Taobuid There	0.4 All required documentation is available for the claiming a Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title
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Indicator 0.1. The aim of developing a new census method has been achieved. But the information on Tamaraw numbers arising from that census (only around 50% of those originally estimated) gives significant cause for concern. It is, however, much better that we know the real situation with the species now than to continue to work with misleading data. The results of the survey have galvanised more concerted action on the part of the authorities to address the low population numbers and ensure the immediate survival and viability of the existing population. A range of number of remedial actions have taken place or been planned , including:

- Deployment of a better census method for tamaraw.
- Agreement by the Taobuid to an increase of 1,700ha in the safe zone for tamaraw, which should address density dependent factors that are limiting population expansion.
- Agreement of a Community Conservation Plan with the Taobuid, which includes measures to reduce their impact on Tamaraw and recognise their contribution to survival of the species.
- A range of activities to restart effective wildlife protection and crime prevention in MIBNP (and securing of new funding to support this). This should help prevent poaching.
- Funding for a new feasibility study that evaluates various options for management of the Tamaraw population (including translocation, establishment of new population and captive breeding). This will provide the basis for a longer and more substantial programmes of support for Tamaraw recovery and conservation.
- A joint review with the TCP and the DENR of the current Tamaraw Conservation Management and Action Plan (which is based on the previous PHVA).
- Funding to confirm the presence of a probable significant new population of Tamaraw in Inner Mindoro (outside MIBNP)

In the light of this, holding a new PHVA event at the project end would not have been useful; we are looking at a new event in 2-3 years, built into the approved Darwin Extra project for the area.

Indicators 0.2 and 0.3. The work with the Taobuid to merge traditional management of their Ancestral Domain with the management plan of the protected area and to increase the safe area for Tamaraw has been a significant success for the project. The agreement of the Community Conservation Plan (CCP) should help secure the sustainability of land and resource use in the Taobuid territory, provide a measure of security for the Taobuid that will give them the confidence to engage more fully in protection measures, and provide a clearer framework for effective cooperation in preventing incursions by poachers. The new agreed safe reproduction zone for Tamaraw extends the safe area for the species beyond the target of 3,000ha. This will not only help secure the future of the species inside MIBNP, it will also provide a model for adopting similar approaches in the only other potentially viable population of wild tamaraw in Mindoro in the Upper Amnay Region inside the territory of the Indigenous Alangan tribe.

Indicator 0.4. The boundary of the ancestral domain claim (both inside and outside MIBNP) has been negotiated, officially mapped on the ground (with full participation of the Taobuid)and formally submitted to accepted by the NCIP, who have committed to seeing the process through its final stages to the award of the Ancestral Domain claim. The role of our project has been to catalyse, encourage and support this partnership, but not to lead it. This role has been acknowledged as vital by the NCIP and has led to a noticeable improvement in cooperation and support from members of the Taobuid, who had previously not engaged in the project. It is probable that the successes with the Community Conservation Plan and the new safe reproduction zone for Tamaraw would not have occurred without the demonstration of good faith and support exhibited through our role in the ancestral domain process.

3.3 Monitoring of assumptions

OUTCOME LEVEL ASSUMPTIONS

Recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic in Mindoro continues as anticipated: The pandemic did affect project delivery, especially in the first year, as restrictions were applied and removed as each variant passed through. Impacts of COVID are discussed in Section 3.2. No Covid-19 restrictions on activities or movements now apply in Mindoro.

Illegal hunting and accidental trapping of Tamaraw can be significantly reduced: We have anecdotal evidence that poaching did increase during the pandemic due to reduced ranger presence in the field and to economic hardship. Activities in 2023, supported by new funding, are designed to address issues with surveillance and law enforcement. The agreed Community Conservation Plan includes agreed measures to prevent accidental trapping by the Taobuid.

Continued good relations and positive collaboration between the PA Management Office and the Taobuid: This assumption has generally held well throughout the project, although the situation has been complicated by regular changes of PaSu (4 incumbents in the course of the project), which did at times disconcert the Taobuid. The project

was however able to provide reliable continuity through these personnel changes, and new PaSus were open to being briefed on appointment and assisted in establishing relations with the Taobuid.

No insurmountable objections from third parties to CADT issuance: No major issues have arisen. Taobuid and NCIP negotiators resolved issues with other tribes over the boundary of the Ancestral Domain and are working on usufruct agreements with resource users inside the claimed area.

OUTPUT LEVEL ASSUMPTIONS

Output 1: Willingness of the Taobuid to participate in research and other studies (previous studies have been approved following the agreed protocols for FPIC agreed with the Taobuid leaders): This assumption has held. Trust and cooperation with the Taobuid increased year by year.

Output 2: The Taobuid agree to the plans and programmes. This assumption has held. The Taobuid and their leaders engaged positively in the development of the Community Conservation Plan and have ensured that it reflects their culture and needs.

Output 3. Population changes can be reliably detected within the project period. Population is being constrained by killings and not habitat factors. Local authorities and law enforcement agencies increase support for wildlife crime prevention. The new census method is more rigorous and accurate, so we now have a more reliable estimate of the number of Tamaraw. Use of the method in 2023 should detect any changes with a high degree of confidence.

On the assumption that 'Population is being constrained by killings and not habitat factors', our studies have shown that the current no-hunting area could not have supported the previously estimated numbers. Further population growth will depend on a larger safe area for Tamaraw, which has now been achieved.

Support for wildlife crime prevention reduced during the pandemic, but is recovering now. The PAMO budget, ranger numbers and employment conditions have improved and the latest PaSu has introduced positive changes. The new financial support secured for wildlife crime prevention over the next three years will enable not only improvements at the site level, but better cooperation and combined action among all agencies with responsibilities for protecting Tamaraw and ensuring peace and order.

Output 4. No official objections to Certificate of Ancestral Domain issuance. Taobuid and NCIP negotiators resolved a few issues with neighbouring tribes over the boundary of the Ancestral Domain and are working on usufruct agreements with resource users inside the claimed area.

3.4 Impact: achievement of positive impact on biodiversity and poverty reduction

IMPACT: A viable Tamaraw population thrives in a sustainable biocultural landscape in MIBNP, where the Taobuid tribe maintain traditional livelihoods and cultural connections with the Tamaraw in their recognised Ancestral Domain.

The project has pioneered community-based approaches to conservation of a Critically Endangered large mammal, while at the same time applying rigorous scientific approaches to species monitoring and population management. From a species management perspective, the project has added hugely to our knowledge and understanding about the Tamaraw, and about monitoring and conservation of small isolated large mammal populations. This understanding is being shared through the participation of the IUCN SSC Large Mammal Specialist Group. From a human perspective, the project is based on the belief that in the context of Mindoro, recognition of Indigenous rights and practices is only feasible route to effective conservation, and has to be integrated with 'conventional' protected area and species management.

The project has adopted a multidimensional approach to poverty reduction, focusing on issues of rights, self-governance, access to essential resources, and on landscape restoration. It has not attempted to impose predetermined 'livelihood solutions' and radical changes on the Taobuid; they are very resistant to such approaches, based on their previous experience with rural development projects. The intention has been that they are empowered to make their own decisions based on the information and options made available to them, and that they can find ways to improve their food security and make their existence more sustainable. The challenge for the Punong Tribu is to maintain the traditions of his people, while also communicating that some change has to happen for the ecosystem to support them.

This way of thinking is very much in line with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework agreed at CBD COP 15 in December 2022. The '30 by 30' target for expansion of the global network of protected and conserved areas will require better integration of science based and technocratic protected area management with traditional management that conserves biodiversity and maintains the rights of Indigenous owners. The findings of this project have the potential to help the Philippines expand its network of protected and conserved areas (which currently

covers 15.4% of its terrestrial area). See <https://news.mongabay.com/2023/01/for-philippines-unprotected-hotspots-new-conservation-window-beckons/>

4 Contribution to Darwin Initiative Programme Objectives

4.1 Project support to the Conventions or Treaties (e.g. CBD, Nagoya Protocol, ITPGRFA, CITES, Ramsar, CMS, UNFCCC)

Capacitating the Taobuid, government institutions, and other stakeholders to manage Mindoro's tamaraw landscapes in an environmentally and socio-economically sustainable way has contributed towards implementing both national policy and Philippines' commitments to multilateral environmental agreements.

The Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (PBSAP) 2015-2028 highlights the Tamaraw as a nationally important biodiversity element. The project has contributed to Targets 1 (improved status of threatened species), 10 (reduction of threats to biodiversity), 11 (increased application of biodiversity-friendly agriculture), 12 (improved capacity for conservation) and 14 (ecosystem restoration). More specifically, the project was designed to help implement the officially endorsed multistakeholder Tamaraw Conservation Management Action Plan 2019-2028.

The work on Indigenous rights has helped implement the Indigenous People's Rights Act (IPRA) (Republic Act No.837) that recognizes and promotes the rights of indigenous cultural communities and indigenous peoples in the Philippines.

Through its contribution to national biodiversity objectives, the project has contributed to the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, particularly Targets 3 and 9, but also Targets 2, 4, 5, 8, 17, and 20-23. The Philippines has recently been developing its '30 by 30' strategy; recognising the tamaraw landscapes outside existing protected areas will contribute to the national target.

The project has also supported implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization, by assisting and empowering Indigenous communities to document genetic resources within the tamaraw landscapes and particularly associated traditional knowledge, and based on this, pursuing their rights to them in line with national legislation.

By reducing deforestation and forest degradation and initiating forest restoration, the project will contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, thereby contributing to implementation of the National Climate Change Action Plan of the Philippines 2011-2029, namely Outputs 1.2 (improved management of PAs and KBAs) and 1.4 (capacity for integrated ecosystem management) of immediate Outcome 1 under its "Ecological and Environmental Stability" section. This will contribute to meeting national commitments under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Ultimately, the project will work towards the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly:

-SDG 15 - Life on Land: By conserving the tamaraw and its habitat, the project will directly contribute to SDG 15's objective of protecting terrestrial ecosystems and biodiversity.

-SDG 1 - No Poverty and SDG 10 - Reduced Inequality: Involvement of local communities in the project will lead to poverty reduction and reduced inequalities by providing economic opportunities and empowering the Indigenous communities and key stakeholders that play an important role in the sustainable management of tamaraw landscapes.

4.2 Project support to poverty reduction

The project took a multidimensional approach to poverty reduction.

Helping the Taobuid secure formal rights to their territory and (through the Community Conservation Plan) recognition of their own systems of governance inside a protected area. This is providing security and confidence for the Taobuid, enabling them to be more proactive (rather than defensive) in management of their territory and interactions with the PAMO and other outside groups.

Addressing food security. The Taobuid territory has become increasingly degraded due mainly to shortening of shifting cultivation cycles within an upland ecosystem that is fragile and suboptimal for this type of management. The promotion of a more stable, productive landscape (as agreed in the Community Conservation Plan) will help feed Taobuid families and conserve the Tamaraw. Previous local poverty reduction efforts have focused on short term training on introduction of new crops and techniques that have either failed or been rejected. The project's approach has been to demonstrate alternative crops and techniques which the Taobuid are able to observe and if they wish participate in. Although we cannot yet demonstrate direct uptake of these new approaches, there is far more interest and engagement from the upland Taobuid, while the lowland residents are now asking for direct assistance in adopting these techniques.

The upland Taobuid also depend on hunting as a source of protein, but most of their target species (deer and pigs) have become scarce due to habitat degradation, poaching by outsiders and overhunting. The project's work on habitat

restoration, alongside reinstatement of traditional regulation of hunting under the Community Conservation Plan and establishment of the new Safe Reproduction Zone should assist recovery of populations of target species (wild pigs and deer), with potential to increase hunting yields and avoid hunting of Tamaraw.

The project has addressed food security during the 'lean months' (*fanlunos*) by establishing a rice banking system. We constructed two 'dongdongs' (rice stores) and 'capitalised' these with rice provided by local donors and the project team. DAF and the Taobuid signed an MoU whereby Taobuid members can borrow rice during the lean season, which helps them avoid eating their seed rice, borrowing money to buy food, labouring for cash (thereby neglecting their own fields), hunting or guiding outside poachers. The dongdong initiative has loaned at least 18 sacks of milled rice and 4.9 sacks of rice seeds to more than 30 Taobuid. The initiative has definitely increased the confidence of key Taobuid leaders in the sincerity of the project.

More directly the project has paid an agreed rate to Taobuid working as porters, guides and field assistants, and has encouraged the PAMO to employ Taobuid personnel. Following recommendations by the project team the PAMO has been able to ease qualification requirements for employment of rangers, enabling more Taobuid members to be employed by the Natural Park. Taobuid team members have been trained in transferable skills such as use of computers and GIS, survey work and reporting .

4.3 Gender equality and social inclusion

Project Team

The following five women have made invaluable contributions to the successes of the project.

Juanita 'Nina' Saet has skilfully and effectively led almost all the work related to Output 4 regarding the Ancestral Domain claim. In 2023 Nina was recognised as a 'Gender and Development Champion' for the MIMAROPA Region of DENR (Picture 3).



Picture 3 Award certificate presented to Juanita 'Nina' Saet

Cleo Hechanova and Francly Ignacio, the two Permaculture Officers have led the field work towards Output 1.4. Both recent graduates from Mindoro in Agroforestry, they work in a remote location (only accessible via 4-hour uphill forest trek) and have led successfully engaging and motivating rangers, volunteers and Indigenous partners. The project made YouTube profiles of both Cleo (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bf28VpHZ5XM>) and Francly (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rk4Fh8Ybenk>)

Narcissa Novelozo , daughter of the Punong Tribu of the Taobuid joined the staff of the PAMO and worked closely with the project to ensure communication and collaboration with the Taobuid people and the authorities that manage the park. As an Indigenous person whose cultural territory is the same as the administrative territory of her government employer, she faces particular challenges. Her inputs both formal and informal have been vital for the success of the work on the Community Conservation Plan and the Ancestral Domain claim. The project made a YouTube profile of Narcissa (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=717oqSoms04>).

Dr Julia Tichit, the project's consultant social geographer has played an increasingly important role in the delivery of Output 1 and the development of the Community Conservation Plan.

Taobuid

Our overall approach to working with the Taobuid has been inclusive, emphasising the need for consultation, respecting traditional decision-making processes, working increasingly in the Fanaubuid language and building solutions around traditional approaches to resource management.

With respect to gender, the customs and traditions of the Taobuid prevent most of their women living in the project area from interacting directly with the project or engaging prominently in meetings. However, a few more Taobuid women are taking part in meetings and consultations (see information on attendance at events under Activity 1.5 and 2.1- 2.4). These women rarely address the meeting directly, but do interact with the male representatives. Our

research is also increasing our understanding of the role of women in daily Taobuid life, livelihoods and traditions .A few Taobuid women are starting to interact with the two female permaculture officers at Station 2, asking questions and seeking information. We will continue to encourage and enable female Taobuid to engage with the project, but also need to be sensitive to their traditions.

Women in governance structures

Please quantify the proportion of women on the Project Board ¹ .	n/a
Please quantify the proportion of project partners that are led by women, or which have a senior leadership team consisting of at least 50% women ² .	40%

4.4 Transfer of knowledge

Knowledge transfer within the Philippines has taken place in several ways

- Presentations by the project team at the annual Philippine Biodiversity Symposium
- Production of a series videos on the permaculture project
- Social media presence of DAF
- Regular technical meetings held with DENR in Manila
- Advocacy and information provision for the proposed House Bill on Conservation of the Tamaraw, which will. This will create an official inter-institutional policy framework for Tamaraw conservation and protection across Mindoro (Annexe 11).

4.5 Capacity building

Ronet Santos has been appointed to the Protected Area Management Board of Mounts Iglit Baco natural Park. Ronet has also been invited to assist the PaSu of MIBNP to prepare the annual work and financial plans for the park.

Juanita ‘Nina’ Saet has been recognised as a ‘Gender and Development Champion’ for the MIMAROPA Region of DENR. She has also been recognised informally as a major contributor to the work of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples.

Allan Lumawig, former project Taobuid liaison officer is now Allan Lumawig, a former staff for six months, is now an IPMR (indigenous political mandatory representative) in Calintaan and is the chair of the technical working committee on indigenous peoples of the MIBNP PAMB.

Project team members have a direct and very good relationship with the central offices of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and are regularly consulted on all matters concerning conservation and management of Tamaraw. They are also regularly consulted by other by other internationally funded projects such as UNDP BIOFIN and the GEF Biodiversity Corridor Project to share their knowledge of the tamaraw, indigenous peoples, and biodiversity in Mindoro.

5 Monitoring and evaluation

There were no major changes in project design. The logframe was amended at the start of the project to take into account the later-than-planned start, a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

No formal external review of the project has taken place or been planned. The monitoring system used was as follows.

- The project team maintained a comprehensive Google Drive filing system for collecting and filing project information, structured according to the logical framework of the project, enabling continual monitoring of activities against outputs and outcomes.
- The project manager and team in Mindoro held a weekly online project management meeting (up to 90 minutes) to:
 - i. Review and discuss activities completed in the past week.
 - ii. Discuss and address issues arising from (i), and jointly decide on necessary actions.
 - iii. Review and agree planned activities for the next week based on the overall project plan.
 - iv. Review project finances and budgeting and progress against the project plan. These reviews take place where necessary and always in advance of six monthly and annual reports.

Decision making at these meetings was through discussion and consensus.

¹ A Project Board has overall authority for the project, is accountable for its success or failure, and supports the senior project manager to successfully deliver the project.

² Partners that have formal governance role in the project, and a formal relationship with the project that may involve staff costs and/or budget management responsibilities.

- The project team in Mindoro compiled comprehensive quarterly reports which are sent to the Protected Area Management Office, and (based on an agreement in 2022 and to shorten lines of communication) directly to the Regional Executive Director of DENR and the DENR Biodiversity Management Bureau. We used the Darwin project log frame and indicators as the basis for these reports, enabling integration of Darwin reporting with national reporting, allowing full transparency on activities with local national authorities, and providing a quarterly progress check for the entire team.
- Financial monitoring and record keeping at the national level was conducted by the administrative team of DAF on a regularly updated spreadsheet based on the project budget. These were checked and verified by the DAF accountants. This information was collated by the Re:wild financial team into the overall project accounts. Outputs in the form of reports and studies were reviewed by the project team, finalised and filed on the central system.
- Evidence of the permaculture project was gathered through regular photographs, and in the restoration areas, monitoring of permanent transects and of individual trees in each planting mound. The project team filed reports for each field visit.
- As part of FPIC, the Taobuid require that all project activities in their territory secure their approval and that major initiatives are subject to signed agreements. Evidence for development of the Community Conservation Plan is based on the successive drafts of the plan, updated and approved at meetings with the Taobuid.
- The process of securing the Certificate of Ancestral Domain was led by the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP). As an official organisation they are required to follow prescribed procedures and maintain comprehensive documentation of all stages of the process.
- Evidence of field activities related to ranger-based patrolling in MIBNP, documenting illegal activities and recording wildlife observations was planned to be collected through the SMART system, which can produce reports and maps based on a wide range of queries. During 2022 however patrolling and use of SMART declined for reasons set out under the report on Activity 3.5. In 2023 the SMART system was upgraded, new training took place, and SMART based monitoring was restarted.
- Evidence of the state of the Tamaraw population had been collected through the official annual census led by the Tamaraw Conservation Program. As explained under Activities 3.1 and 3.2, a new more accurate census system has been designed and tested in 2022 and is now being used.

6 Actions taken in response to Annual Report reviews

All feedback has been reviewed and acted on.

7 Lessons learnt

The key lessons for the project team have been.

Using good science can lead to difficult conclusions. The results of the Tamaraw census based on the new method revealed that the Tamaraw population was much less than previously thought. This finding led to several lessons. First that long term monitoring programmes require constant scrutiny and regular verification to ensure that they are consistently and rigorously conducted. Second that projects should not be afraid to adopt new methods when they are available, even if the results prove not to be what was expected or hoped for; it is much preferable to be making decisions based on the true facts even if they are uncomfortable. Third, that it is important to communicate apparently ‘bad news’ in a constructive way.

Working with Indigenous people. The increase in cooperation and trust in the project by the Taobuid people bears out our approach of working slowly, patiently and respectfully and not pushing the pace of activities ‘because the project requires it’. It is important that we are consistent in this way of working and are not seen as a temporary intervention. Our unwavering and unconditional support for the ancestral domain claim has provided clear evidence that our intentions are good.

The need for consistent management. A major lesson for us and for our Taobuid partners from the learning visit to Mount Kitanglad Range Natural Park (MKRNP) in Mindanao was the importance of continuity in leadership. PaSus of MKRNP serve for many years and are usually succeeded by their deputy; in MIBNP we are working with the fifth PaSu since the project was conceived 5 years ago. Decisions on leadership are not in our control, but we are passing the importance of this lesson on to the relevant authorities.

‘Necessity can be the mother of invention’. The innovative and successful training and deployment of para-anthropologists’ to gather information from Taobuid communities arose because expert social scientists could not visit the project area during the COVID-19 pandemic. This piece of improvisation was far superior to the planned expert driven approach; we gathered more and better data, capacity was built for project team members, participants felt more understanding and ownership of project results, and the process accelerated the building of trust with the Taobuid.

8 Risk Management

No new risks have arisen. There has been no reoccurrence of the incursions by anti-government insurgents that took place during the election period in 2022. The PaSu and the project team were updated regularly about the situation by the security services, and all has remained peaceful.

9 Sustainability and Legacy

This project was launched as part of an ongoing long-term commitment by our partners DAF to sustainable management of the landscape of the tamaraw and the Taobuid. That commitment continues after the end of the Darwin project, as does Re:wild's commitment to continuing its work in Mindoro. Specific measures include

- DAF have, in partnership with Re:wild and the IUCN SSC Asian Wild Cattle Specialist Group and ZSL secured support from the Segre Foundation for a 3-year project that will strengthen law enforcement and crime prevention and explore options for population management of the Tamaraw
- DAF has also secured funding to continue to support adoption of permaculture practices by the lowland Taobuid. The PAMO is committed to continue the permaculture garden in Station 2. This will require a formal instruction to the rangers to maintain the garden as part of their duties.
- All project activities are (by design) included in the approved management plan for MIBNP and in the Tamaraw Conservation Management and Action Plan (TCMAP), ensuring that that the PAMO and TCP must implement them and include them in their work and financial plans. This also provides an automatic 'mandate' for the activities of the project. We are designing all follow up projects in the same way.
- The community conservation plan has been endorsed by the PAMB and the Taobuid and forms the basis for future co-management of the area, integrating Indigenous practice with the protected area management plan and providing a framework for stable sustained management.
- Following the new and lower estimate of Tamaraw numbers the DENR is showing increasing commitment to supporting the management of Tamaraw.
- A House Bill on Conservation of the Tamaraw, initially presented under the previous government With inputs from the project and many other stakeholders, has been revived and will be reintroduced . The Bill calls for HB 8299 calls for the creation of the Tamaraw Conservation Coordinating Council and the Technical Advisory Group, Tamaraw Conservation Program Office, and the Tamaraw Conservation and Research Centre that will oversee coordination, research, and pertinent activities to ensure that the program's objectives are met.
- The National Commission on Indigenous Peoples has made a commitment to seeing through and supporting the remaining stages required for awarding of Ancestral Domain title to the Taobuid.
- Other projects are starting to invest in tamaraw conservation, for example UNDP BIOFIN (see <https://www.biofin.org/philippines>) and the Biodiversity Corridor Project <http://www.philchm.ph/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/BD-Corridor-Project-Briefer-v2-1.pdf>
- Project resources remain with the D'Aboville Foundation who will continue to use them for continuation activities linked to the project.

10 Darwin Initiative identity

Our partners in the Philippines have emphasised throughout the project the need to avoid the impression that the Darwin project is a single investment-focused short-term intervention. This impression can give rise to expectations and attitudes that are not helpful and can reinforce the negative experience of our Indigenous partners of previous short-term projects. We have therefore been explicit that the Darwin Initiative is supporting a crucial set of activities that are distinct and have specific goals, but that are part of longer overall processes and that are embedded in existing nationally and locally owned plans. The project worked to maintain a balance between portraying the Darwin Initiative work as a distinct project and ensuring that it is understood as part of a longer term set of activities. In pursuit of this all the activities in the project are included in the approved management plan for MIBNP and/or in the Tamaraw Conservation Management and Action Plan (TCMAP).

We have been recognising the Darwin Initiative and its support for our work, both in the Philippines and more widely. Project outputs and presentations with appropriate acknowledgements include

Videos. Initially in response to the pandemic, DAF switched to using videos to document and share the Journey towards a sustainable bio-cultural landscape at Mts Iglit-Baco Natural Park. These videos are

Permaculture system in Mts Iglit Baco Natural Park. Video 1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4jklprbHlxU>

Video 2. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zVKwrt69RMA&t=8s>

Journey towards a sustainable bio-cultural landscape at Mts Iglit-Baco Natural Park.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZpYN5rxGQ-A>

Assessing small tamaraw populations with camera trap technology. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J9JKQEIx6es>

Exploring alternative Tamaraw census methods. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J9JKQEIx6es&t=311s>

Meet the team videos. Introducing the people who are implementing the project

Meet the team: Ronet <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oPaDm91gg5g>

Meet the team: Manu <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xnVEffYcpUQ>

Meet the team: Narcissa <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7I7oqSomso4>

Meet the team: Diego <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fOz2RaaALT4>

Meet the team; Jackie <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sKvC8V007pk>

Meet the team: Francly <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rk4Fh8Ybenk>

Meet the team: Cleo <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bf28VpHZ5XM>

Meet the team: Fernando <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qrvdAR03vw0>

Social Media and news

DAF have, with advice from the Re:wild social media team, intensified their Facebook presence and include regular posts about project activities. They have more than 2000 followers.

<https://www.facebook.com/dabovillefoundation>

DAF also provides project related news and stories on its website. <https://www.dabovillefoundation.org/community-tamaraw-driven-landscape-pr>

DAF also produces and circulates a newsletter including news from the project.

https://www.dabovillefoundation.org/files/ugd/66763c_a71712e104894ac69e8c197af08f9826.pdf

Re:wild has a page on the project on its website. <https://www.rewild.org/wild-about/tamaraw>

Darwin Newsletter. An article was provided for the March 2022 newsletter.

<https://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/media/g5vpaqye/darwin-newsletter-march-2022-charismatic-conservation-final.pdf>

11 Safeguarding

Has your Safeguarding Policy been updated in the past 12 months?	No
Have any concerns been investigated in the past 12 months	No
Does your project have a Safeguarding focal point?	Yes [REDACTED]
Has the focal point attended any formal training in the last 12 months?	No. Training received in past 24 months.
What proportion (and number) of project staff have received formal training on Safeguarding?	20% (2)
Has there been any lessons learnt or challenges on Safeguarding in the past 12 months? Please ensure no sensitive data is included within responses.	
None	

12 Finance and administration

12.1 Project expenditure

Project spend (indicative) since last Annual Report	2022/23 Grant (£)	2022/23 Total actual Darwin Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Consultancy costs	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Overhead Costs (inc audit)	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Travel and subsistence	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Operating Costs	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Capital items (see below)	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Others (see below)	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Audit				Sum quoted by auditor. Re:wild will cover the overspend
TOTAL	66,755	67,712		

Staff employed (Name and position)	Cost (£)
Emmanuel Schutz (Programme Director)	
Ronet Santos (Project Manager)	
Juanita Saet (community outreach)	
Diego Agman (Taobuid Liaison)	
Jonard Salazar/Zeny Flores (Bookkeeping)	
TOTAL	24,229

Capital items – description	Capital items – cost (£)
None	0
TOTAL	0
Other items – description	Other items – cost (£)
Translation and Printing Awareness (videos)	
TOTAL	2,361

12.2 Additional funds or in-kind contributions secured

Source of funding for project lifetime	Total (£)
Re:Wild Contribution of staff time and expenses	
DAF contributions from funds raised from other sources	
Segre Foundation Grant (partnership with ZSL and DAF) Year 1	
Grant from Re:wild to support the Indigenous study visit	
In kind contributions from Segre foundation grant partners	
Est in kind contributions from government partners (DENR, NCIP)	
TOTAL	317,000

Source of funding for additional work after project lifetime	Total (£)
Segre Foundation Grant (Partnership with ZSL and DAF) Year 2	
Segre Foundation Grant (partnership with ZSL and DAF) Year 1	
New grant to DAF (Mandai Nature)	
Darwin Extra Grant Awarded 2024-2029	
Darwin Extra Partner contributions	
TOTAL	4,881,459

12.3 Value for Money

The project has delivered value for money in several ways

- Re:wild has funded all its own staff time and most of its project related expenses (). Apart from the inputs from Re:wild, all project activities have been implemented through project partners, local personnel and Philippines-based experts. This has not only been more economical and efficient, but it has also built local capacity.

- Our partners in Mindoro have always paid close attention to working economically and effectively. For example, they rented a project office house that included accommodation (saving hotel costs), purchased bicycles for local travel, and used the bus service to Manila (instead of flying).
- The project has from the start been integrated into the approved management plan of MIBNP and the approved Tamaraw Conservation Management and Action Plan, with all its activities focused on implementing elements of the two plans. This has meant that the project has not invested inefficiently in standalone, purely project focused activities. Instead, project resources (human, financial and material) have enhanced those of the protected area management office and the Tamaraw Conservation Program and made best use of the staff and infrastructure of those organisations. Furthermore, inclusion of project activities in the two official plans, has generated a requirement for government budget allocations to those activities, thereby leveraging further support during the project and beyond its lifetime.
- Similarly, project funds have been used to supplement the (limited) resources of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples to work on the ancestral domain claim for the Taobuid. Our pledges of support for operational expenses also stimulated additional pledges from local government agencies and members of the Taobuid themselves. The NCIP has now committed to funding the remaining stages of the ancestral domain claim.

13 OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements of your project (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes.

I agree for the Biodiversity Challenge Funds Secretariat to publish the content of this section.

This project managed by Re:wild and implemented through local partners the D’Aboville Foundation, has been successful in integrating Indigenous rights and practices into science-based species conservation and State management of a protected area. It was designed around the principle that the futures of the Tamaraw (a Critically Endangered endemic wild buffalo down to its last few hundred individuals) and the Taobuid (a marginalised Indigenous upland community) are interdependent. As the leader of the Taobuid told us ‘you cannot save the Tamaraw without saving us; we will live or die together’.

The project has advanced understanding of Tamaraw ecology, and developed better ways to monitor them. We now know that Tamaraw numbers are half of previous estimates. A disturbing result, but one which demonstrates the value of good science for informing conservation planning. Our discoveries have galvanised new initiatives to safeguard remaining animals, and locate significant populations in new areas.

But science alone is not enough to save this species. The project team succeeded in building trust with the Taobuid to collaborate on securing their rights and addressing their needs; a result of result of working patiently, respectfully and reliably, taking time to understand and acknowledge Taobuid culture and traditions. During the COVID-19 pandemic social scientists could not visit, so the team innovated online training and deployment of Indigenous ‘para-anthropologists’ to research Taobuid communities. This proved superior to the planned expert-driven approach; we gathered more and better data, local capacity was built, understanding and ownership of the project were increased, and trust-building was accelerated.

By the end of the project, the Taobuid have designed their own Community Conservation Plan, based on their resource management traditions, and endorsed by the Protected Area Management Board. This includes voluntary addition of a 1,700ha ‘safe reproduction area’ to the existing no hunting zone. With the Taobuid we have mapped and registered a formal claim for their ancestral domain. The Taobuid have also access to a demonstration area showing new appropriate ways to restore their territories and increase their good security.

The project’s activities and goals have been incorporated into the official management plans for the protected area, and for the Tamaraw, and the work programme of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples. Such institutionalisation helps ensure continued implementation and funding of the project’s achievements. The team and partners are delighted to have been awarded a Darwin Extra grant, to extend and scale up their achievements.

File Type (Image / Video / Graphic)	File Name or File Location	Caption, country and credit	Online accounts to be tagged (leave blank if none)	Consent of subjects received (delete as necessary)
Image	Tamaraw with Calf (Emmanuel Schutz).jpg	Tamaraw with Calf (Emmanuel Schutz) Mindoro, Philippines.		Yes / No n/a

Image	Traditional Land Use of the Taobuid (Emmanuel Schutz).jpg	Traditional Land Use of the Taobuid (Emmanuel Schutz). Mindoro, Philippines		Yes
Image	Rangers on patrol Mts Iglit_Baco Natural Park Philippines. (James Slade, Rewild).jpg	Rangers on patrol in Mts Iglit-Baco Natural Park (James Slade, Rewild). Mindoro, Philippines		Yes
Video	Permaculture system in Mts Iglit Baco Natural Park. 1.	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4jklprbHlxU D'Aboville Foundation. Mindoro, Philippines		Yes
Video	Permaculture system in Mts Iglit Baco Natural Park. 2	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zVKwrt69RMA&t=8s D'Aboville Foundation. Mindoro, Philippines		Yes
Video	Journey towards a sustainable bio-cultural landscape at Mts Iglit-Baco Natural Park.	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZpYN5rxGQ-A D'Aboville Foundation. Mindoro, Philippines		Yes

Annex 1 Project's original (or most recently approved) logframe, including indicators, means of verification and assumptions.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p>Outcome: The Tamaraw population in MIBNP is secure and stable, able to expand into a more resilient and productive landscape recognised as the Ancestral-Domain of the Tau Buid people</p>	<p>0.1 PHVA (population and habitat viability analysis) shows reduced chance of extinction of the Tamaraw population from the 2018 baseline.</p> <p>0.2 The Tau-Buid and the PAMO are working collaboratively to implement agreed plans and programmes of work for sustainable stewardship of the acknowledged Tau-Buid territory inside MIBNP.</p> <p>0.3 Tau-Buid from at least 2 communities are engaging in agricultural improvement and landscape restoration initiatives.</p> <p>0.4 The safe area available to Tamaraw and other large mammals has increased to at least 2,500 ha.</p> <p>0.5 A formal claim has been prepared for official certification of the ancestral domain (CADT) of the Tau-Buid.</p>	<p>0.1 PHVA analysis at the end of year 3 based on results of Tamaraw monitoring.</p> <p>0.2 Agreed official plans for management of the Tau-Buid territory that include specific measures to reduce land degradation and increase productivity.</p> <p>0.3 Results of community engagement studies.</p> <p>0.4 Agreed plans for land and resource management with the Tau-Buid include an expanded 'no-hunting' area from the 2019 baseline of 1,600 ha.</p> <p>0.4 All required documentation is available for the claiming a Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic in Mindoro continues as anticipated. Illegal hunting and accidental trapping of Tamaraw can be significantly reduced (the project and the MIBNP include specific measures to do this). Continued good relations and positive collaboration between the PA Management Office and the Tau-Buid. This depends on maintaining a very good level of consultation and communication and working at an appropriate pace and intensity. No insurmountable objections from third parties to CADT issuance. The Protected Area Management Office supports the CADT initiative, which is an explicit objective of the PA management plan, but it cannot guarantee final issuance of the CADT for two main reasons 1) The process has to be driven and led by the Tau-Buid with assistance from the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, subject to official procedures not under the control of the project or the PAMO. 2). A large part of the claimed Ancestral Domain is outside MIBNP
<p>Output 1: A sound understanding of the structure, culture and needs of Tau-Buid</p>	<p>1.1 Needs and priorities for improved livelihoods and food security</p>	<p>1.1 Research report with recommendations on livelihoods, land</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Willingness of the Tau-Buid to participate in research and other

<p>communities in and around the Tamaraw habitat and of the options and needs for sustainable land use and landscape rehabilitation.</p>	<p>improvement among the ca 200 Tau-Buid people in 2 focal communities are better understood and documented.</p> <p>1.2 Demographics, social structures, governance systems and traditional knowledge of one focal Tau-Buid community (ca 100 people) are better understood.</p> <p>1.3 At least one Tau-Buid community (100 people) Tau-Buid has increased awareness of and capacity for implementing measures to improve agricultural productivity and reduce land degradation</p> <p>1.4 A trials demonstration area for new agricultural and agroforestry techniques is available to at least 400 Tau-Buid people</p> <p>1.5 At least 2 MIBNP PAMO community outreach staff have improved capacity for working with Indigenous Peoples</p>	<p>and resource use completed by end of Q3 2021/22 and approved by the Tau-Buid.</p> <p>1.2 A series of socio economic and ethnographic studies is completed and approved by the Tau Buid.</p> <p>1.3 At least 50 Tau-Buid women and men have participated in capacity building events by the end of year 2022/3.</p> <p>1.4 Trial/demonstration area established in MIBNP end of year 2022/23.</p> <p>1.5 Documented participation of PAMO staff in relevant exchanges and training events.</p>	<p>studies (previous studies have been approved following the agreed protocols for FPIC agreed with the Tau-Buid leaders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic in Mindoro continues as anticipated.
<p>Output 2: At least 2 Tau-Buid communities (approximately 200 men, women and children) are engaged in implementing agreed plans of activities to improve sustainability of resource and land use and rehabilitate damaged landscapes in and around Tamaraw habitat</p>	<p>2.1 Options and requirements for appropriate landscape rehabilitation, agriculture and sustainable resource use inside MIBNP are identified and agreed in collaboration with the Tau-Buid in the form of Community Conservation Plans (based on Output 1)</p> <p>2.2 Approx. 100 members of at least 1 Tau-Buid community are making use of extension support and advice to improve agricultural productivity and sustainability in their village lands.</p> <p>2.3 Joint programmes of the Tau-Buid and the PAMO are operating for improved fire management, erosion</p>	<p>2.1 Formally documented and agreed Community Conservation Plans for the Tau Buid territory that overlaps with Tamaraw habitat signed by the end of year 2022/23.</p> <p>2.2 Annual follow-up studies of community uptake of extension advice and support</p> <p>2.3 Monitoring plots/fixed point photographs and other studies documenting landscape change resulting from interventions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Tau-Buid agree to the plans and programmes (based on Output 2). NOTE: The PAMO has the right to enter into formal Community Conservation Plans with the Tau-Buid for Ancestral Domain areas inside MIBNP • Recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic in Mindoro continues as anticipated. •

	control and invasive species control in Tamaraw habitats adjacent to Tau-Buid communities.		
Output 3: The Tamaraw population is well protected, stable or increasing and occupying an increased protected zone of at least 2,500ha	<p>3.1 The Tamaraw population is stable or increasing from the 2019 baseline (480) by the end of year 3 (adjusted to accommodate more accurate census techniques).</p> <p>3.2 An enlarged no hunting area of 2,500ha and associated regulations is agreed with the tau-Buid by end of year 2</p> <p>3.3 Documented overall patrol effort at least doubles by end of year 2</p> <p>3.4 All rangers are adequately trained equipped and led by end of year 2</p> <p>3.5 Poaching and other avoidable mortality of Tamaraw is documented and demonstrates a decrease by the end of Y3 (target max 3 avoidable deaths per year)</p> <p>3.6 Improved awareness by end of Y1 in MIBNP boundary communities and agencies of the need to prevent Tamaraw poaching</p>	<p>3.1 Results of annual surveys (using an updated version of the method used for the last 18 years)</p> <p>3.2 Documented no hunting agreement.</p> <p>3.3 Patrol coverage as documented by SMART records</p> <p>3.4 Scores from annual assessments of Wildlife Crime Prevention capacity using Re:wild's standard monitoring tool*</p> <p>3.5 Reports from SMART*planned and documented patrols by rangers and indigenous people show a decrease in violations from a baseline established in year 1</p> <p>3.6 Information available in all boundary communities and all relevant agencies adjoining the Tamaraw area. * This tool is used across all GWC supported projects globally **=Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population changes can be reliably detected within the project period. Population is being constrained by killings and not habitat factors Local authorities and law enforcement agencies increase support for wildlife crime prevention. Recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic in Mindoro continues as anticipated.
Output 4: A claim for the rights of the Tau-Buid in their Ancestral Domain is prepared and submitted by the end of the project	<p>4.1 Agreed programme of support mobilised by the end of Q2 2021/22 to enable completion of the Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title (CADT).</p> <p>4.2 Process agreed and support mobilised with the NCIP and the Tau-Buid by the end of Q2 2021/22 for developing the required Ancestral Domain Sustainable Development and Protection Plan (ADSDPP) integrated with the MIBNP management plan.</p>	<p>4.1 Signed agreements for project support for the CADT process and the ADSDPP process (subject to FPIC)</p> <p>4.2 CADT area inside MIBNP mapped and documented and all ADSDPP elements agreed.</p> <p>4.3 Complete CADT dossier finalised and presented</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No official objections to CADT issuance. NOTE. The project cannot guarantee final issuance of the CADT as the process has to be driven and led by the Tau-Buid with assistance from the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, subject to official procedures not under control of the project.

	<p>4.3 All CADT and ADSDPP requirements for the area of Ancestral Domain inside MIBNP completed by end of 2022</p> <p>4.4 Full CADT proposal and ADSDPP completed and submitted by end of project</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic in Mindoro continues as anticipated.
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Annex 2 Report of progress and achievements against final project logframe for the life of the project

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements
<p>Impact:</p> <p>A viable Tamaraw population thrives in a restored, sustainable biocultural landscape in Mounts Iglit-Baco Natural Park, where the Taobuid tribe maintain their cultural identity and lifestyle in their recognised Ancestral Domain.</p>		<p>Report on any contribution towards positive impact on biodiversity or positive changes in the conditions of human communities associated with biodiversity e.g. steps towards sustainable use or equitable sharing of costs or benefits</p>
<p>Outcome The Tamaraw population in MIBNP is secure and stable, able to expand into a more resilient and productive landscape recognised as the Ancestral-Domain of the Tau Buid people.</p>	<p>0.1 PHVA (population and habitat viability analysis) shows reduced chance of extinction of the Tamaraw population from the 2018 baseline.</p> <p>0.2 The Taobuid and the PAMO are working collaboratively to implement agreed plans and programmes of work for sustainable stewardship of the acknowledged Taobuid territory inside MIBNP.</p> <p>0.3 Taobuid from at least 2 communities are engaging in agricultural improvement and landscape restoration initiatives.</p> <p>0.4 The safe area available to Tamaraw and other large mammals has increased to at least 2,500 ha.</p> <p>0.5 A formal claim has been prepared for official certification of the ancestral domain (CADT) of the Taobuid.</p>	<p>0.1 PHVA repeat not planned until 2023</p> <p>0.2 Close collaboration demonstrated through significant progress in development of the Community Conservation Plan and the Ancestral Domain claim.</p> <p>0.3 Community members from at least two settlements are observing the establishment of the agricultural and landscape restoration demonstration area and are starting to participate.</p> <p>0.4 No specific change to date. Cultural context of area expansion established. Discussions with Taobuid commence May 2023.</p> <p>0.5 Most of the boundary of the claim area officially surveyed and mapped. NCIP leading the process in collaboration with the Taobuid.</p>
<p>Output 1. A sound understanding of the structure, culture and needs of Taobuid communities in and around the Tamaraw habitat and of the options and needs for sustainable land use and landscape rehabilitation.</p>	<p>1.1 Needs and priorities for improved livelihoods and food security improvement among the ca 200 Taobuid people in 2 focal communities are better understood and documented.</p> <p>1.2 Demographics, social structures, governance systems and traditional knowledge of one focal Taobuid community (ca 100 people) are better understood.</p>	<p>1.1 and 1.2 Understanding achieved through research and publication of two reports .1 'Initial Documentation of Indigenous Political Structure, Land Use, Hunting and other Resource Use Practices of the Taobuid in MIBNP' was completed in 2021 and 'State of knowledge on Taobuid Land Use and Natural Resource Use Practices'. The focus of this work was 3 communities, totally around 225 people.</p> <p>1.3 At least 50 documented attendees at organised events. Many more at informal events and consultations. Meetings are normally attended by between 6 and 12 Taobuid members whose names are recorded, but many are attended by others who do not wish to be documented.</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements
	<p>1.3 At least one Taobuid community (100 people) has increased awareness of and capacity for implementing measures to improve agricultural productivity and reduce land degradation</p> <p>1.4 A trials demonstration area for new agricultural and agroforestry techniques is available to at least 400 Taobuid people</p> <p>1.5 At least 2 MIBNP PAMO community outreach staff have improved capacity for working with Indigenous Peoples.</p>	<p>1.4 8-hectare demonstration area established and functioning. Available to visit for all Taobuid members. initiative recognised with a national award.</p> <p>1.5 The PAMO recruited a female Taobuid member to its team to work on community issues. The PaSu is a regular attendee at community meetings. Two female permaculture officers have received training and regular mentoring. 3 staff are working as trained ‘para-anthropologists’ conducting research and gathering information from Taobuid communities not accessible to non-Indigenous project staff.</p>
Activity 1.1 Commission a study of Taobuid agriculture and resource use and food security from a national specialist		Study concluded <i>‘Initial Documentation of Indigenous Political Structure, Land Use, Hunting and other Resource Use Practices of the Taobuid in MIBNP’</i> .
Activity 1.2 Conduct socio economic and ethnographic studies of one Taobuid village in order to understand how new practices in agriculture and land use can best be assimilated.		Ongoing (continuously updated) report <i>‘State of knowledge on the Taobuid Land-use and Livelihood systems in Mts Iglit-Baco Natural Park’</i> .
Activity 1.3 Conduct exchanges, training events and study visits from the Taobuid to other indigenous initiatives in the Philippines		In February 2023, two members of the DAF project team accompanied four Taobuid (three males and one female) on a study visit to Mount Kitanglad Range Natural Park (MKRNP) on the island of Mindanao, where successful co management between Indigenous peoples and the protected area management office takes place.
Activity 1.4 Establish an area inside MIBNP for trials and demonstrations of agriculture and agroforestry techniques.		<p>An eight-hectare trials demonstration area established and regularly maintained and monitored by two project personnel.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – A ‘model garden’ producing various crops – A ‘food forest’ area to demonstrate agroforestry techniques - A forest restoration/recovery area (showing measurable forest recovery)
Activity 1.5 Provide training/exchange opportunities for project staff.		At least 730 training days delivered. Also, continuous informal mentoring by the project team, and assistance with field deployment for personnel of MIBNP, the TCP, the NCIP and the Taobuid people.
Output 2. At least 2 Taobuid communities (approximately 200 men, women and children) are engaged in implementing agreed plans of activities to improve sustainability of resource and land use and	2.1 Options and requirements for appropriate landscape rehabilitation, agriculture and sustainable resource use inside MIBNP are identified and agreed in	<p>2.1 The CCP, developed with and approved by the Taobuid, was officially approved by the Protected Area Management Board on November 21, 2023.</p> <p>2.2 The CCP focuses on three settlements i. the area where tamaraw persist (Tagurades, Bayanan and Bangkodo: ca 225 people), All community members are aware of the support.</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements
rehabilitate damaged landscapes in and around Tamaraw habitat.	<p>collaboration with the Taobuid in the form of Community Conservation Plans</p> <p>2.2 Approx. 100 members of at least 1 Taobuid community are making use of extension support and advice to improve agricultural productivity and sustainability in their village lands.</p> <p>2.3 Joint programmes of the Taobuid and the PAMO are operating for improved fire management, erosion control and invasive species control in Tamaraw habitats adjacent to Taobuid communities.</p>	<p>Some are known to be using it and others requested for support to use it. Lack of access to Taobuid settlements prevents precise verification.</p> <p>Monitoring of restoration area demonstrates effectiveness of interventions.</p> <p>2.3 Landscape management measures are included in the Community Conservation Plan (see 2.1).</p>
Activity 2.1. Hold participatory resource management planning events with the Taobuid		The CCP was developed through a series of 5 formal participatory planning events and numerous informal consultations.
Activity 2.2. Support participatory identification of location and boundaries of CCP areas inside the MIBNP		Participatory field survey activities during 2023 identified, mapped and agreed the boundaries within MIBNP
Activity 2.3. Support participatory development of management and action plans for CCP areas.		Extensive participatory process for the CCP took place August 2021 to November 2023
Activity 2.4. Work with at least one selected village to enable and encourage uptake agricultural extension advice		The project team cannot enter Taobuid villages, and so has relied rely on community members from the three focal communities to visit the demonstration area at Station 2. Visitors show evidence of increasing interest: exchange of crops and tree seedlings for foodstuff not available in the uplands. Others observe activities and training events, the staff in informal conversation and have started attending and contributing to formal meetings and consultations.
Activity 2.5. Identify and mobilise potential sources of additional extension support for implementing CCPs.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – New funding secured to ensure basic continuation of activities at Ranger Station 2 and on implementation of the community conservation plan. <p>We are seeking rural development funding to support adoption of permaculture approaches by the lowland Taobuid on the basis that it will increase the chances of adoption by the more remote communities.</p>
Activity 2.6. Develop and implement strategies and joint actions for fire management, erosion control and invasive species control.		<p>The main focus has been on fire management.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The restoration area (described 1.4) is demonstrating that natural regeneration of trees can be quite rapid and widespread when protected by a fire break.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Research and training have been conducted on the cultural dimension of fire. - New Tamaraw census method does not require burning and will enable monitoring of post burning ecosystem changes at a larger scale. <p>Technical support has been provided for study by UNDP BIOFIN on habitat assessment as the basis for large scale restoration plan for MIBNP.</p>
<p>Output 3. The Tamaraw population is well protected, stable or increasing and occupying an increased protected zone of at least 2,500ha</p>	<p>3.1 The Tamaraw population is stable or increasing from the 2019 baseline (480) by the end of year 3 (adjusted to accommodate more accurate census techniques).</p> <p>3.2 An enlarged no hunting area of 2,500ha and associated regulations is agreed with the Taobuid by the end of year 2</p> <p>3.3 Documented overall patrol effort at least doubles by end of year 2</p> <p>3.4 All rangers are adequately trained equipped and led by end of year 2</p> <p>3.5 Poaching and other avoidable mortality of Tamaraw is documented and demonstrates a decrease by the end of year 3 (max 3 avoidable deaths per year)</p> <p>3.6 Improved awareness by end of Year 1 in MIBNP boundary communities and agencies of the need to prevent Tamaraw poaching</p>	<p>3.1 The census method has been successfully revised, published and applied. The new method shows a much lower but much more accurate total (200-250), mainly due to flaws in the previously used method. Revised population count has triggered increased official attention to conservation measures.</p> <p>3.2 Current no hunting zone (1,560 ha) has been extended by a new 'safe reproduction zone' of 1,700 ha giving a total of 3,260 ha, exceeding the target. The map of the new safe reproduction zone has been agreed by the Taobuid.</p> <p>3.3 Disruption caused by COVID-19 removed all personnel from the field for 18 months. Organisational changes delayed redeployment of the rangers. A funded plan for addressing shortcomings put into action during 2023.</p> <p>3.4 Ranger activity was suspended for 18 months during COVID. Remedial action in progress with new funding.</p> <p>3.5 Gaps in recording during COVID prevents detailed analysis</p> <p>3.6 Support for the annual Tamaraw month enables widespread local awareness. Agency and wider awareness through videos and online media.</p>
<p>Activity 3.1. Support and development of and implement refined census techniques for Tamaraw</p>		<p>Two new census methods designed, personnel trained and tested in the field in April 2022 and deployed in 2023.</p>
<p>Activity 3.2. Conduct and analyse annual Tamaraw census</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Census conducted in April 2022. Alongside the standard census the two new methods (Double observer point count and dung distance sampling) were conducted by project-trained personnel. - Analysis of results of new methods shows a much lower tamaraw population (ca 250 instead of ca 400). - Report prepared and presented on results and their implications. - Technical conference on census techniques planned for the first quarter of 2024

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements
Activity 3.3. Agree an enlarged no hunting area with the Taobuid (linked to 2.2)		Participatory surveys identified and mapped an area of 1,700ha (see Map 1). This area has been agreed in principle (subject to some minor necessary boundary adjustments) and is included in the community conservation plan.
Activity 3.4. Train, equip and support rangers to improve protection and monitor and plan activities using SMART software.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ranger deployment and use of SMART was suspended in 2021/2 due to the Covid-19 Pandemic and leadership changes. - New funding acquired in 2023 to support SMART and ranger training and deployment. - Ranger training, protection planning, and SMART deployment resumed in last quarter of 2023.
Activity 3.5. Collate statistics and publish an annual law enforcement and wildlife crime prevention report		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SMART training took place at the start of the project and SMRT was deployed by the TCP and to a lesser extent the PAMO. - Little data collected by PAMO in 2022-23 due to COVID-19 and staff changes. Some data collected by TCP rangers. - Resumption of data collection in the second half of 2023, but insufficient to generate meaningful reports. - New funding acquired in 2023 to revive ranger training and deployment.
Activity 3.6. Conduct an awareness campaign on the management of MIBNP need for tamaraw conservation. Focal groups - Park edge communities - Local government units and official agencies with an interest in MIBNP		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - General Public Awareness. The project participated in and contributed to events organised by the Tamaraw Conservation Programme for the popular and widely supported Tamaraw Month each October (as a virtual event during the pandemic). - The project team made conference presentations at the 2nd Asia Parks Congress in Sabah Malaysia in May 2022 and at the annual Philippine Congress on Conservation Biology - The project has released 13 videos on its work and team which are available on YouTube. It has also maintained a Facebook page and DAF has released an annual newsletter.
Output 4. A claim for the rights of the Taobuid in their Ancestral Domain is prepared and submitted by the end of the project	<p>4.1 Agreed programme of support mobilised by the end of Q2 2021/22 to enable completion of the Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title (CADT).</p> <p>4.2 Process agreed and support mobilised with the NCIP and the Taobuid by the end of Q2 2021/22 for developing the required Ancestral Domain Sustainable</p>	<p>4.1 Tripartite Memorandum of Agreement signed in February 2022 between DAF, NCIP Occidental Mindoro, and the Tao-Buid leaders confirming that DAF and the Taobuid will provide resources for NCIP Occidental Mindoro to implement a work and financial plan (WFP) for processing the ancestral domain claim.</p> <p>4.2 Funding agreement signed with the NCIP for provision of financial support by the project (as agreed under the tripartite agreement).</p> <p>All major meetings and events were documented by the project team. All official events and activities were documented (as legally required) by the NCIP.</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements
	<p>Development and Protection Plan (ADSDPP) integrated with the MIBNP management plan.</p> <p>4.3 All CADT and ADSDPP requirements for the area of Ancestral Domain inside MIBNP completed by end of 2022</p> <p>4.4 Full CADT proposal and ADSDPP completed and submitted by end of project</p>	<p>4.3/4 Following a 2-year process of filed based boundary delineation and negotiation the map of the boundary of ancestral domain was submitted to the Ancestral Domains Office (ADO) of the Central Office of the NCIP and recognized as the official map of the Taobuid tribe. The Taobuid and the Provincial Office of the NCIP are currently waiting for the memorandum Order from ADO which will direct the NCIP to facilitate the map projection, map validation, and publication.</p> <p>The NCIP have agreed to fund the remaining stages of the process.</p>
Activity 4.1. Conduct a review of the current status of the Taobuid claim and the reasons for the rejection of the previous claim.		Completed by the project team.
Activity 4.2. Clarify the processes required to obtain a CADT and complete the ADSDPP inside MIBNP		Completed by the project team in consultation with the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP)
Activity 4.3 Formalise agreement with the Taobuid and NCIP for provision of support.		The tripartite MoU was signed 10 February 2022, by DAF, NCIP Occidental Mindoro, and the Taobuid leaders.
Activity 4.4 Provide resources to support the CADT and ADSDPP process, based on the requests of the Taobuid and the NCIP.		<p>Following the tripartite agreement the project concluded a funding agreement for financial and logistical support for the official boundary survey of the claimed area.</p> <p>All boundaries for the Ancestral Domain inside MIBNP have been officially surveyed by the NCIP Geodetic Engineer.</p>
Activity 4.5 Complete documentation of all requirements for CADT and ADSDPP inside MIBNP		<p>In December 2023, the map of the boundary of ancestral domain was submitted to the Ancestral Domains Office (ADO) of the Central Office of the NCIP and recognized as the official map of the Taobuid tribe. The Taobuid and the Provincial Office of the NCIP are waiting for the memorandum Order from ADO which will direct the NCIP to facilitate the map projection, map validation, and publication.</p> <p>The NCIP have agreed to fund the remaining stages of the process after the end of the project.</p>

Annex 3 Standard Indicators

We have mapped relevant indicators to the new indicator framework wherever possible.

Table 1 Project Standard Indicators

DI Indicator number	Name of indicator using original wording	Name of Indicator after adjusting wording to align with DI Standard Indicators	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total (Jan – Mar 2021)	Year 2 Total (Apr 21 – Mar 22)	Year 3 Total (Apr 22 – Mar 23)	Year 4 Total (Apr 23 – Dec 23)	Total to date (individuals)	Total planned during the project
DI-A01	At least 2 MIBNP PAMO community outreach staff have improved capacity for working with Indigenous Peoples + At least 50 Taobuid women and men have participated in capacity building events.	Number of people from key national and local stakeholders completing structured and relevant training	People	Men Women Indigenous community attendees at training and orientations	0 0 0	74 13 Ca 50	65 5 Ca 50	15 4 0	61 13 50+	50+
DI- A-03	At least 2 MIBNP PAMO community outreach staff have improved capacity for working with Indigenous Peoples	Number of organisations with improved capability and capacity as a result of the project	Organisations		0	1	4	4	4	3
DI-A06	A trial demonstration area for new agricultural and agroforestry techniques is available to at least 400 Taobuid people	Number of people with improved access to services or infrastructure or improved well being	People		0	100	225	225+	225 minimum	400
DI-B03	Formally documented and agreed Community Conservation Plans for the Taobuid territory that overlaps the Tamaraw habitat signed by the end of 2022/23	Number of new/improved community management plans available and endorsed.	Plans	Final Plan	0	0	0	1	1	1

DI Indicator number	Name of indicator using original wording	Name of Indicator after adjusting wording to align with DI Standard Indicators	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total (Jan – Mar 2021)	Year 2 Total (Apr 21 – Mar 22)	Year 3 Total (Apr 22 – Mar 23)	Year 4 Total (Apr 23 – Dec 23)	Total to date (individuals)	Total planned during the project
DI- B-06	All CADT and ADSDPP requirements for the area of Ancestral Domain inside MIBNP completed by end of 2022. PLUS Full CADT proposal and ADSDPP completed and submitted by end of project	Number of Indigenous Peoples and local communities with strengthened (recognised/clarified) tenure or rights	People/Households Total Area	Number of people with rights clarified	0	0	4000	4000	4000	4000
				Number of people with rights registered	0	0	4000	4000	4000	4000
DI – C03	The Tamaraw population is stable or increasing from the 2019 baseline (480) by the end of year 3 (<u>adjusted to accommodate more accurate census techniques</u>).	Number of new conservation or species stock assessments published	Number	New census method published	0	0	1	1	2	1
DI- C04	Needs and priorities for improved livelihoods and food security improvement among the ca 200 Tau-Buid people in 2 focal communities are better understood and documented. PLUS Demographics, social structures, governance systems and traditional knowledge of one focal Tau-Buid community	New Assessments of Community use of biodiversity resources published	Number	Studies published	0	1	0		1	2
				Knowledge bank continuously updated	0	1	1		1	1

DI Indicator number	Name of indicator using original wording	Name of Indicator after adjusting wording to align with DI Standard Indicators	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total (Jan – Mar 2021)	Year 2 Total (Apr 21 – Mar 22)	Year 3 Total (Apr 22 – Mar 23)	Year 4 Total (Apr 23 – Dec 23)	Total to date (individuals)	Total planned during the project
	(ca 100 people) are better understood.									
DI-D01	An enlarged no hunting area of 2,500ha and associated regulations is agreed with the tau-Buid by the end of year 2	Hectares of habitat under sustainable management practices	Area in Hectares	No hunting area	1560	1560	1560	3260	3260	3000
DI – D04	The Tamaraw population is stable or increasing from the 2019 baseline (480) by the end of year 3 (adjusted to accommodate more accurate census techniques).	Stabilised/improved species population within the project area	Number of Tamaraw	Unadjusted Adjusted using new technique	Ca 480	Ca 420	Ca 200	Ca 200	Ca 200	To be determined
DI – D10	A trial demonstration area for new agricultural and agroforestry techniques is available to at least 400 Taobuid people	Area of degraded/converted ecosystems that are under active restoration	Hectares	Forest converted to grassland by grazing/burning	0	8	8		8	8

Table 2 Publications

Title	Type	Detail (Authors, year)	Gender of Lead Author	Nationality of Lead Author	Publishers (Name, city)	Available from (e.g., weblink or publisher if not available online)
Cast away on Mindoro island: lack of space limits population growth of the endangered tamaraw.	Journal Article	Bonenfant, C. & Rutschmann, Alexis & Burton, James & Boyles, R. & García, F. & Tilker, Andrew & Schütz, E. (2023).	All M	French	Animal Conservation	Animal Conservation. 10.1111/acv.12842.
Four years after the Population and Habitat Viability Assessment, what do we know about the status of tamaraw (<i>Bubalus mindorensis</i>) in Mindoro?	Journal Article	Emmanuel Schütz, Fernando Garcia Gil, John Carlo Redeña-Santos, Nikki Heherson A. Dagamac, Christophe Bonenfant, Andrew Tilker, Neil Anthony Del Mundo (2023)	M	French	BULLETIN	Journal of the IUCN SSC Asian Wild Cattle Specialist Group. Issue 8, July 2023. https://www.asianwildcattle.org/uploads/1/2/1/8/121825577/bulletin_issue_8_july_2023.pdf
Meet the team: Ronet	Video	Ronet Santos	M	Filipino	DAF	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oPaDm91gg5g
Meet the team: Manu	Video	Emmanuel Schutz	M	French	DAF	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xnVEfFycpUQ
Meet the team: Narcissa	Video	Narcissa	F	Filipino	DAF	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7I7oqSomso4
Meet the team: Diego	Video	Diego	M	Filipino	DAF	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fOz2RaaALT4
Meet the team; Jackie	Video	Jackie	M	Filipino	DAF	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sKvC8V007pk
Meet the team: Francly	Video	Francly	F	Filipino	DAF	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rk4Fh8Ybenk
Meet the team: Cleo	Video	Cleo Hechanova	F	Filipino	DAF	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bf28VpHZ5XM
Meet the team: Fernando	Video	Fernando Garcia	M	Spanish	DAF	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qrvdAR03vw0
Journey towards a sustainable bio-cultural landscape at Mts Iglit-Baco Natural Park	Video	Emmanuel Schutz	M	French	DAF	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZpYN5rxGQ-A

Annex 5 Supplementary material (optional but encouraged as evidence of project achievement)

Annexe 1. 'Initial Documentation of Indigenous Political Structure, Land Use, Hunting and other Resource Use Practices of the Taobuid in MIBNP' Table of contents.

Annexe 2. 'State of knowledge on Taobuid Land Use and Natural Resource Use Practices' Latest version Dec 2023. Table of contents and introduction.

Annexe 3 Training statistics.

Annexe 4. Report from the Indigenous learning visit.

Annexe 5. Images from the Station 2 demonstration area.

Annexe 6 Community conservation plan.

Annexe 7a and 7b Reports on Tamaraw census and monitoring.

Annexe 7c Field work photos

Annexe 8. Confirmation of ranger insurance.

Annexe 9. Tripartite agreement and NCIP work order.

Annexe 10 Photos of participatory boundary delineation.

Annexe 11 Tamaraw House Bill.

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Checklist for submission

	Check
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to BCF-Reports@niras.com putting the project number in the Subject line.	Y
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please discuss with BCF-Reports@niras.com about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.	N
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see section 10)?	Y
Have you included means of verification? You should not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	Y
Do you have hard copies of material you need to submit with the report? If so, please make this clear in the covering email and ensure all material is marked with the project number. However, we would expect that most material will now be electronic.	N/A
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see section 10)?	Y
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	Y
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	Y
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	